

Baltimore and the
Saengerfest



Official Program & Souvenir

ISSUED BY
THE SAENGERFEST ASSOCIATION
OF BALTIMORE.

Re-Dedication of the Mendelssohn Bust

Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 12 noon

Prudential Concert Grove, Essex County Branch Brook Park, Newark, NJ

Under the leadership of Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., about \$50 million of improvements have been made to revitalize Essex County Branch Brook Park. Partnering with the Branch Brook Park Alliance, NJ Green Acres program and the Essex County Recreation and Open Space Trust Fund, recreation facilities have been modernized, historic features have been preserved and more than 5,000 cherry blossom trees have been planted. The latest initiative by DiVincenzo began in the spring of 2017 when he commissioned sculptor Harry Gordon to refurbish the Mendelssohn Bust and relocate the 20,000-pound statue to its new location at the Prudential Concert Grove in Branch Brook Park. The restoration was supported with a



German-Americans were a proud and prominent portion of Newark's population by the mid-19th century, heavily involved in the industries that built the city. Wherever they lived, Germans tended to establish gymnastic clubs (Turnverein) and singing societies (Sängerchor). Newark was no exception.

An umbrella organization of the German choruses in the mid-Atlantic region, the Nordoestlicher Saengerbund von Amerika, holds a singing festival, or Sängerfest, every few years. Their grand 20th fest was held in June 1903 in Baltimore. Thirteen of Newark's German men's choruses competed separately and also joined forces as the United Singers of Newark. They were among 6,000 singers and a packed crowd gathered in the armory. Even President Theodore Roosevelt took the train from



OFFICIAL
SOUVENIR AND PROGRAMME

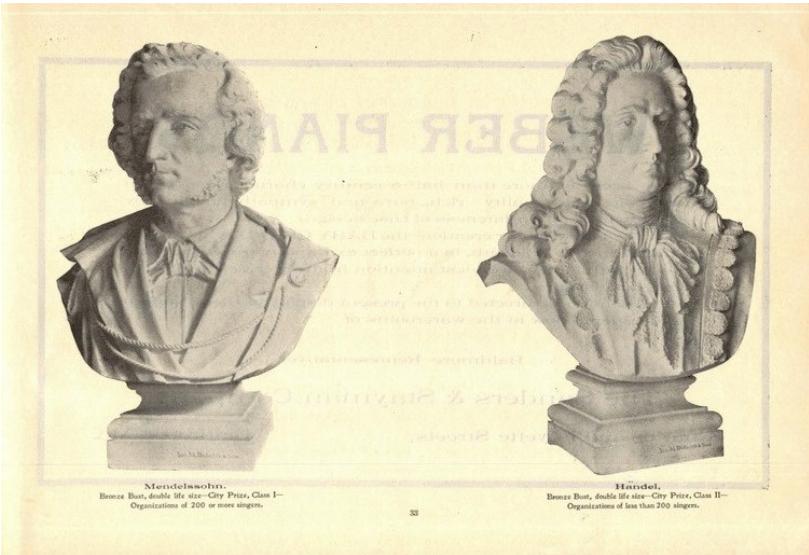
20TH

Triennial Saengerfest
of the
Nord-Oestlicher Saengerbund
of America.

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
UNITED SINGERS OF BALTIMORE.

WEEK OF
JUNE 14, 1903

57572



Joseph M. Didusch & Son,

SCULPTORS.

*Modellers of the Busts of Mendelssohn and Handel,
the City Prizes for the Saengerfest.*

910 E. BIDDLE STREET,

BALTIMORE, MD.

At each Sängerfest, prizes were given to the best choruses in various categories. The biggest prizes, literally, were awarded to the best performances by a city's combined choirs. In 1903, those city prizes were large bronze busts of famous German composers, modelled by the Baltimore sculptors Joseph M. Didusch & Son and cast at the Roman Bronze Works foundry in New York City. Washington, DC, with fewer than 200 voices, garnered the bust of Baroque composer Georg Friedrich Händel. Newark's larger combined chorus, conducted by Julius Lorenz, won the likeness of Romantic composer Felix Mendelssohn for its rendition of "Hochamt im Walde" (The Woodland Mass) by Reinhold Becker.

The United Singers of Newark brought the bust home in victory. Hundreds met them at Penn Station late at night. Amid firecrackers and bonfires, they paraded to the Krueger Auditorium in the city's predominately German Springfield/Belmont neighborhood for revelry

Newark Evening News.

NEWARK, N. J., FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1903.—TWENTY PAGES.

BUST OF MENDELSSOHN, WON BY UNITED SINGERS OF NEWARK



SINGERS GET A BIG RECEPTION

Crowds Turn Out to Welcome the Victors Home from Baltimore.

PARADE AND BONFIRES GALORE

The victorious United Singers returned to Newark last night from their trip to Baltimore, bringing with them the massive bronze bust of Mendelssohn which they won as first prize in the contest for city-organizations in the great singerfest held in that city. Their homecoming was made the occasion of great rejoicing on the part of the friends of the singers, and the prize winners marched from the Pennsylvania Railroad Depot to the Ranger Auditorium through a blaze from red lights and bonfires. At the auditorium there was congratulatory speechmaking by prominent men.

Northeastern Saengerbund of America.

CARL LENTZ, Pres., Dr. L. WEYLAND, V.-Pres.,
BERN. KLEIN, Rec. Secy., AUGUST GOERTZ, Treas.,
ADAM OBST, Cor. Secy.

Baltimore Headquarters:
Harmonic Club House, 414 West Fayette Street.

In the months that followed, the United Singers campaigned to have the bust installed in Essex County Branch Brook Park, the largest park in Newark and the first county park in the United States. The park's landscape architects, the Olmsted Brothers firm, suggested space in the music court on the west side of the lake, but they were agreeable to the requested site along the promenade on a slope to the east of the lake. After a review of the bust by professional sculptors, the Parks Commission approved the placement. The United Singers bore the cost of the pedestal and installation.

May 23, 1904, was another day of great celebration as the Mendelssohn bust was unveiled to a crowd of thousands. Both the park and the bust were symbols of civic pride.

The sculpture's location became less accessible with the construction of the "new" Barringer High School. The bust was removed from its base for safe-keeping from further damage

United Singers of Newark, N. J.

JOHN J. PLEMENIK, Secretary,
411 South Sixth Street.

Arion,
25 Belmont Avenue.

Aurora,
48 William Street.

Quartered in Baltimore, at
National Hotel, Fayette and Holliday Streets.

Bayerischer Saengerbund,
37 Sixteenth Avenue.

Bergischer Maennerchor,
285 Springfield Avenue.

Beethoven Maennerchor,
116 Elm

Quartered in Baltimore, at
Fischer's, Lombard near Sharp Street.

Casino Maennerchor,
103 Springfield Avenue.

Germania,
Krueger Auditorium, 25 Belmont Avenue.

Gesangverein Fidelia,
38 Holland.

Hessischer Saengerbund,
361 Springfield Avenue.

Lyra Maennerchor,
457 Springfield Avenue.

Phoenix,
202 S. Orange.

Quartered in Baltimore, at
Hotel Brunswick, Wilkins Avenue and Brunswick Street.

Schwabischer Saengerbund,
457 Springfield Avenue.

Quartered in Baltimore, at
National Hotel, Fayette and Holliday Streets.

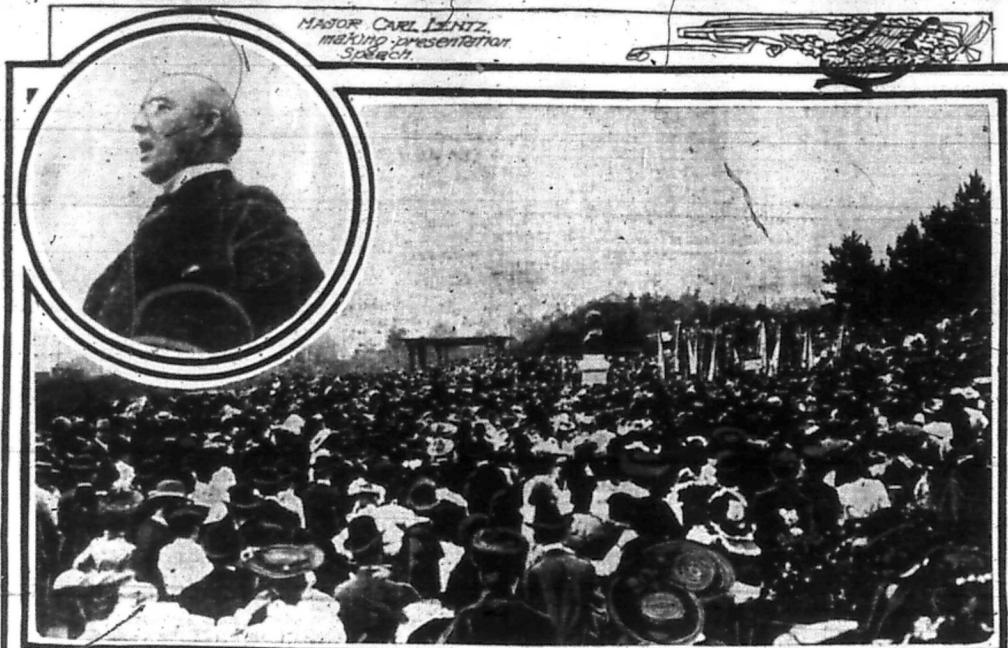
West Newark Quartett Club,
252 South Orange.

Newark Evening News.

NEWARK, N. J., TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1904.—SIXTEEN PAGES.

UNVEILING OF THE MENDELSSOHN BUST IN BRANCH BROOK PARK.

MAYOR CARL LENTZ,
making presentation
speech.



After the bust was unveiled.

CELEBRATION A GREAT SUCCESS

Thousands of Newarkers Joined in the German Day Festivities.

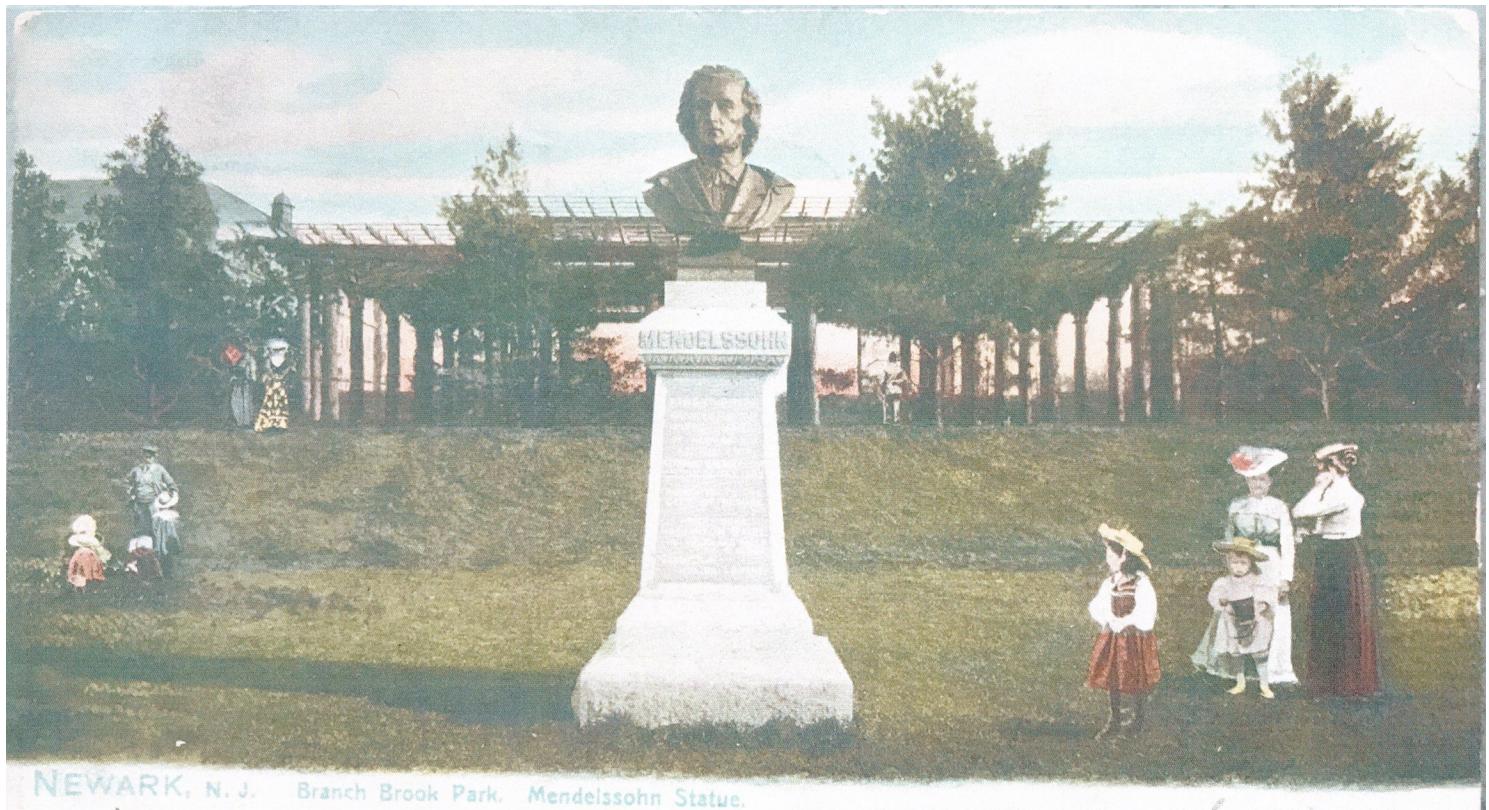
SINGERS SANG PRIZE SONG

5,000 Witnessed Unveiling.

The unveiling of the Mendelssohn bust in Branch Brook Park yesterday afternoon, its formal presentation and acceptance, was witnessed by about 3,000 people, as told in the NEWB. As an open-air festival, the first of the kind ever held in the park, it was a beautiful and impressive sight. It was one of the few occasions when visitors to the garden spot were allowed to walk where they pleased, on the grass, without being asked to keep on the walk. And they all seemed to appreciate it, especially the children, of whom there were many hundreds.

There was a hearty cheer when the white covering of the bust, released from the confining ropes, was whipped aside by the wind and the stately features of the great composer in bronze, topping a rugged granite pile, came into the view of thousands.

Major Lentz, as president of the North-Eastern Saengerbund, and August Goetz, as president of the United Singers, made brief remarks about the bust, and how it was won, and on behalf of the singers presented it to the city. After Mayor Doremus had accepted the gift on the part of the municipality, John H. Oelkers, who acted as master of ceremonies, introduced Cyrus Peck, president of the park commissioners. Mr. Peck said:



NEWARK, N.J. Branch Brook Park. Mendelssohn Statue.



We proudly re-dedicate this symbol of achievement and the arts in the Prudential Concert Grove across the lake from where it originally stood.

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., *Essex County Executive*, The Board of Chosen Freeholders,
and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs

