



Guide to the Pitchforks of Duke University records, 1980 - 2012

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Summary

Collection Title:

Pitchforks of Duke University records, 1980 - 2012

Creator:

Pitchforks of Duke University; Ward, Benjamin Frank, Jr., 1948-2013

Abstract:

Contains the records of the Pitchforks of Duke University, a men's a cappella singing group. Types of materials include articles of incorporation, a constitution, certificates, correspondence, applications, press, flyers, clippings, photographs, rosters, and sound recordings. Major subjects include student life at Duke University, male college students, vocal performance groups, and student groups. English.

Extent:

6.5 Linear Feet

Language:

English.

Collection ID:

UA.31.07.0003

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1kx4c>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Pitchforks of Duke University Records, Duke University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

Contains articles of incorporation, a constitution, certificates, correspondence, applications, press, flyers, clippings, photographs, rosters, and sound

recordings of the Pitchforks, a Duke University men's singing group. Records date from 1980-2012 (bulk 1980-1985).

Biographical/Historical

The Pitchforks, a mostly undergraduate men's a cappella singing group, began singing together in 1979, in response to the need for men's informal singing at Duke University. The group was chartered as a student organization in 1981. The founding officers of the Pitchforks were: Robert S. Clarke, Frank E. Block, James Bulleit, Eliot McCrory, and Kurt T. Uphoff.

The group's a cappella repertoire includes a variety of popular and classic songs in various musical styles including ballads, jazz, blues, spirituals, folk, and traditional barbershop songs. The Pitchforks perform at hospitals, nursing homes, hotels, private clubs, weddings, and on other college campuses. Their on-campus events include small performances for sororities, Homecoming, the Blackwell Arch show, the Dance Marathon, the annual Jamboree, and the Gothic Christmas Concert. The Pitchforks also host other high school and college a cappella singing groups.

The Pitchforks have recorded several albums and are currently active at Duke University. Other Duke University a cappella groups are: Something Borrowed, Something Blue, Lady Blue, Out of the Blue, Rhythm and Blue, Deja Blue, and Speak of the Devil.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Access note. Collection contains fragile audiovisual formats that may need to be reformatted before use. Contact Research Services for access.

Use Restrictions

Copyright for Official University records is held by Duke University; all other copyright is retained by the authors of items in these papers, or their descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law.

Acquisition Information

The Pitchforks of Duke University records were received by the University Archives as a transfer in 1985, 2003, 2008, 2019, and 2022.

Processing Information

Processed by Emily Glenn, completed January 2003. Updated by Jill Katte, January 2004. Updated by Leah M. Kerr, January 2020.

Encoded by Emily Glenn, April 2003

Updated by Jill Katte, January 2004

Updated by Sherrie Bowser, October 2008

Accession UA2022-0026 added by April Blevins, September 2022

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Names and Subjects

- Choral singing
- Photographs
- Sound recordings
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Male college students -- United States -- North Carolina -- Durham
- Choral societies -- United States
- Choruses, Secular (Men's voices), Unaccompanied
- Popular music -- 1981-1990
- Students' songs -- North Carolina
- Popular songs
- Duke University -- Songs and music
- Duke University -- Students
- Pitchforks of Duke University

Collection Inventory

Subject Files, 1980-1989

Articles of incorporation and constitution, ca. 1980- 1986	Box 1
ASDU charters, 1980-1981	Box 1
Statement of Commitment (of members to the Pitchforks group), 1986	Box 1
Membership certificates, 1984	Box 1
Correspondence, 1980-1981	Box 1
Correspondence, 1982-1985	Box 1
Audition materials, general, ca. 1980-1989	Box 1
Audition callbacks, 1986	Box 1
Audition applications, ca. 1986-1988	Box 1
Jamboree, general materials and press, 1981-1985	Box 1
Concerts and events, 1981-1985	Box 1
The Pitchforks album materials, 1983	Box 1
It's not Rock 'n' Roll but I like it! Album materials, 1984	Box 1
Flyers, advertisements, and general publicity, ca. 1981-1986	Box 1
Song lists for performances, 1981-1985	Box 1
Logo materials, ca. 1980	Box 1
Photographs (negatives), 1983	Box 1
Rosters, 1980-1982	Box 1

Clippings, ca. 1980-1983

Box 1

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Sound recordings, 1983-2008

Access Restrictions:

Access note. Series contains fragile audiovisual formats that may need to be reformatted before use. Contact Research Services for access.

Arranged chronologically.

Processing Information:

The sound recordings are stored with the University Archives audio collection in the Cage.

Scope and Contents

Please contact University Archives staff to access related Pitchforks master recordings.

Pitchforks of Duke University, 1983 Box 1

Physical Description: 12" disc, Commercial LP

It's Not Rock 'n' Roll but I like it! The
1983-1984 Pitchforks of Duke University, 1984 Box 1

Physical Description: 12" disc, Commercial LP

Pitchforks of Duke University: Tonal Eclipse,
1992 Box 1

Physical Description: CD, Reference Copy

Pitchforks of Duke University: Underground,
1994 Box 1

Physical Description: CD, Reference Copy

Ninth St.: The Pitchforks of Duke University,
1996 Box 1

Physical Description: CD, Reference Copy

Bad for the piano: The Pitchforks, 2002 Box 1

Physical Description: CD, Reference Copy

A Gothic Christmas: The Pitchforks of Duke University, 2003 Box 1

Physical Description: CD, Reference Copy

The Pitchforks of Duke University: Bring it Back , 2006 Box 1

Physical Description: CD, Reference Copy

The Pitchforks: Disconcert, 2008 Box 1

Physical Description: CD, Reference Copy

Benjamin F. Ward, Jr., 1981 Oct 10 Box 4

Scope and Contents

Includes recordings of pianist Benjamin F. Ward, Jr. performing a recital for Arts in Duke Chapel. Selections include works by Johann Sebastian Bach; Cesar Franck; Claude Debussy; and Frederic Chopin. As an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Duke University Department of Philosophy, and the Associate Dean for Faculty Program, Ward directed and performed with The Pitchforks.

Benjamin F. Ward, Jr., 1983 Sep 25 Box 4

Physical Description: 1 Reels

Scope and Contents

Content includes pianist Benjamin Ward performing works of Federic Chopin.

Refraction, CD, 2012 Box 7

Master recordings, 1984-1998

Physical Description: 6 boxes

Scope and Contents

Contents include masters for The Pitchforks' recordings.

Master recordings, 1988-1992 Box 2

Master recordings, 1998 Box 3

Master recordings, 1981-1987, 1994-1998 Box 4

Master recordings, 1994 Apr 3 Box 5

Master recordings, 1984 Box 6

Master recordings, 1984

Box 7

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