

# GERMAN ANARCHIST VOCAL MUSIC GROUPS IN NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY (1880-1914)

Compiled by Tom Goyens, Salisbury University

[txgoyens@salisbury.edu](mailto:txgoyens@salisbury.edu)

Sources: *Freiheit*, 1880-1910, *Amerikanische Arbeiter-Zeitung*, 1886, *Der Anarchist*, 1889-1895, *The New York Times*, 1880-1910; *Sturm-vogel*, 1897-1899; R. Rocker, *Johann Most*, 428-9.

## MANHATTAN

### **Arbeiter-Liedertafel**

*Workers' Singing Society*

Founded: mentioned in January 1886

Rehearsals/meetings: every Monday 8pm at Hildesheimer's Halle (309 E 5th St.)

### **Arbeiter-Männerchor**

*Workingmen's Choir*

Founded: mentioned in May 1889

### **Autonome Arbeitersgesangsverein "Vorwärts"**

*Autonomous Workers' Singing Society "Forward"*

Founded: March 1892; last mentioned in December 1892

Rehearsals/meetings: every Thursday 8:30pm at Zum groben Michel (209 E 5th St.); every Saturday 8pm at Zum groben Michel.

Functionaries: Emil Hagen (conductor)

Membership: 20 founding members

### **Damenchor "Fortschritt"**

*Ladies' Choir "Progress"*

Founded: July 1906; last mentioned April 1911

Rehearsals/meetings: every Friday at 8pm at Max Schulz's Halle (240 E 80th St., Yorkville), Marquandt's Halle (1574 Second Avenue, Yorkville)

### **Gesangsverein "Egalité"**

*Choral Society "Equality"*

Founded: mentioned in May-October 1889

### **Gesangverein "Eiche"**

*Choral Society "Oak"*

Founded: mentioned in September 1891

### **Gesangverein "Freiheit"**

*Choral Society "Freedom"*

Founded: January 1884; last mentioned in March 1911

Rehearsals/meetings: 1886: at Pflazer Harmonie (213 Forsyth St.); 1889: every Wednesday 8pm at Brecht's Sngerhalle (197 E 4th St.); 1906: every Thursday at 8pm at Max Schulz's Halle (240 E 80th St., Yorkville); 1907: Bhmische National-Halle (321-5 E 73rd St., Yorkville); 1909: Internationale Arbeiter-Lesezirkel (231 E 77th St., Yorkville)

Functionaries: G. Kupferschmidt (corresponding secretary); Julius Kupprion (conductor, 1904)

Membership: 38 in 1908

### **Gesangverein Lassallea-Ottensen<sup>1</sup>**

*Lassallea-Ottensen Choral Society*

Founded: mentioned in August 1887; last mentioned in July 1890

Membership: close to 100

### **Gesangverein Symphonia**

*Symphonia Choral Society*

Founded: mentioned in July 1890

### **Gesangverein Vorwrts**

*Forward Choral Society*

Founded: October 1886; last mentioned in January 1888.

Rehearsals/meetings: 1886: every Friday at 8pm at Lauda's beerhall (529 E 5th St.)

Membership: "Nur revolutionr gesinnte Arbeiter knnen diesem Gesangvereine beitreten. Passive Mitglieder werden nicht aufgenommen." (*Freiheit*, 11 December 1886)

### **Herwegh-Mnnerchor**

*Herwegh Male Choir*

Founded: mentioned in July 1889, last mentioned in April 1906.

Rehearsals/meetings: every Friday at Ehrmann's Sngerhalle (350 W 39th St.)

Functionaries: F. Wick (corresponding secretary), F. Hasselmann (finance secretary), A. Schilling (treasurer), J. Stauber (archivist), W. Ritter (beer collector), Julius Lach (conductor)

Membership: close to 100

### **Internationale Arbeiter-Liedertafel, New York**

*International Workers' Singing Society, New York*

Founded: 23 November 1890; last mentioned in December 1900, part of the group split in May 1896.

Rehearsals/meetings: 1897: every 20th of the month, and later every Wednesday evening at 7pm at Paul Wilzig's Union Assembly Rooms (85 E 4th St.); January 1891: at Hofferberth's Halle (385 Bowery); 1898: every Wednesday evening at J. Faulhaber's Halle (1551 Second Ave)

Functionaries: Fr. Ebel (secretary), O. Prepenit (finance secretary), R. Pfeffer (treasurer), A. Lampe and Dieschburg (beer collectors), Olwig, Kupferschmidt, Hugo Thierfeld (auditors), August Lott and Müller (archivists), A. Sutter (standard-bearer), Julius Lach (conductor until January 1891), L. See (conductor)

Members of the Music Committee (*Musikkomitee*): Thierfeld, Olwig, Kupferschmidt, Hasselbach

Notes: This society also had a drama section called Freie Bühne

Membership: Justus Schwab

### **International Club Freiheit**

*International Club Freedom*

Founded: 5 June 1896; last mentioned in September 1901.

Notes: This group was the successor of a dissident wing of the Int. Arbeiter-Liedertafel NY, which dissolved amid internal disagreements. Dues: 25 cents monthly. German group with singing and dramatic sections meeting at different times. It becomes the foremost anarchist circle in New York City at this time.

Regular Meeting Place: W.L. Rau's Hall; Henry Bening's Hall; 1898: B. Westenberger's Hall; 1899: Hermann Kohle's Hall (all on 414 E 5th St.)

Meeting Place Singing section: August 1900: Cieslinsky & Heymann's Hall (195 Ave A)

Meeting Time: every Friday 8pm; 1899: every Tuesday evening

Members: Carl Arndt; Wilhelm Babekuhl; Gustav Bauer (treasurer); P. Brieser; John Diesburg (actor, bookseller); Ulrich Fuchs (actor); Oscar Haase (actor); Frau Huth; Jacobson; Joseph Jülich (actor); Mrs. Knäblein; Mrs. Könnecke; Mrs. Krämer; Krautwurst (+1899); Lohmann (singer); Meyer; Seyfried; Siegmund; Stiebler; Hugo & Josephine Thierfeldt (secretary); Wendnagel; Mrs. Zupitza.

### **Knickerbocker Männerchor**

*Knickerbocker Male Choir*

Founded: mentioned in May 1892

### **Möbelarbeiter Gesangverein**

*Furniture Workers' Choral Society*

Founded: mentioned in April 1898

**Schneider Harmonie**

*Tailors' Harmony*

Founded: mentioned in May 1891

**Typographia Männerchor**

*Typographia Male Choir*

Founded: mentioned May 1892-January 1895

**Typographia Sängerbund**

*Typographia Singing Association*

Founded: mentioned April 1887

BRONX

**Gesangverein Fortschritt, Morrisania**

*Progress Choral Society, Morrisania*

Founded: mentioned in June 1895-June 1899

Rehearsals/meetings: every Sunday 8pm at August Albinger's Halle (3465 Third Avenue)

BROOKLYN

**Arbeiter-Harmonie Brooklyn**

*Workers' Harmony Brooklyn*

Founded: mentioned in March 1890

**Arbeiter-Gesangverein, Brooklyn**

*Workers' Choral Society, Brooklyn*

Founded: January 1891

**Evergreen Liederkrantz, Brooklyn**

*Evergreen Singing Circle, Brooklyn*

Founded: mentioned in June-August 1903

Functionaries: K. Maskos (conductor)

**Gesangverein Freiheit, Brooklyn**

*Freedom Choral Society, Brooklyn*

Founded: mentioned in February-June 1903

Rehearsals/meetings: every Saturday evening at Heinz' Halle (Wyckoff Avenue); Stutzmann's Halle (1120 Willoughby Avenue)

### **Internationale Männerchor, Brooklyn**

*International Male Choir, Brooklyn*

Founded: January 1891; last mentioned in October 1900

Rehearsals/meetings: 1891: every Sunday at 12:30pm at Brooklyn Labor Lyceum (Myrtle St.); 1895: at Jakob Marquandt's Irving House (194 Irving Ave, corner Nimrod St.); 1898: every Saturday evening at Alfred Huber's Halle (1120 Willoughby Ave)

Functionaries: Julius Luck (conductor, 1891)

Membership: August Mössner

### **Internationale Männerchor, Bushwick**

*International Male Choir, Bushwick*

Founded: mentioned in July 1891-March 1892

### **Lassalle Männerchor, Brooklyn**

*Lassalle Male Choir, Brooklyn*

Founded: mentioned in April 1887; last mentioned in January 1891

### **Wyckoff Heights Echo**

Founded: mentioned in May 1892

## HUDSON COUNTY, NJ

### **Arbeiter-Männerchor von Union Hill**

*Workers' Male Choir of Union Hill*

Founded: mentioned in July 1889; last mentioned in September 1891

Functionaries: Julius Lach (conductor), Peter Stumpf (second conductor), Albert Habedank (corresponding secretary), W. Ladewig (finance secretary), W. Wuttig (treasurer), H. Ladewig and Lässig (archivists), Fringel, Schiel, Eckstein (auditors), Oskar Rach, Junker Lajer, Ferdinand Lamatsch (standard-bearers), Oskar Rach (beer collectors), Ferdinand Lamatsch (beer treasurer), Fringel (dues collector).

Members of the Music Committee (*Musikkomitee*): Oskar Rach, Merkel, Ferdinand Lamatsch, Groß.

Committee of arbitration (*Schiedsgericht*): H. Müller, Wuttig, Merkel, Eckstein, Lamatsch

### **Fritz Reuter<sup>2</sup> Männerchor, Hoboken**

*Fritz Reuter Male Choir, Hoboken*

Founded: mentioned in September 1891

**Internationale Männerchor von Hudson County**

*International Male Choir of Hudson County*

Founded: October 1891; last mentioned March 1892

Rehearsals/meetings: every Sunday 2pm at Fr. Schlötzer's Arbeiter-Halle (110 Paterson Avenue, West Hoboken)

Functionaries: August Eberhardt (protocol and finance secretary), Alex (treasurer)

**Swiss Harmony**

Founded: mentioned in November 1890

NEWARK

**Arbeiter-Männerchor**

*Workers' Male Choir*

Founded: February 1890; last mentioned in April 1892

Rehearsals/meetings: March 1890: every Saturday at 8pm at Lezgus' beerhall (128 Howard St.)

**Gesangverein Harmonie**

*Choral Society Harmonie*

Founded: mentioned in March 1887

**Gesangverein Liberty**

*Choral Society Liberty*

Founded: March 1880; last mentioned in November 1898

**Gesangverein Teutonia**

*Choral Society Teutonia*

Founded: mentioned in March 1887-April 1906

PATERSON

**Gesangverein Vorwärts, Paterson**

*Forward Choral Society, Paterson*

Founded: 5 January 1891

Rehearsals/meetings: at 441 Main St.

**Internationale Arbeiter-Liedertafel, Paterson**

*International Workers' Singing Society, Paterson*

Founded: mentioned in January 1889-February 1898

**Lager-Ale-Beer Männerchor, Paterson**

*Lager-Ale-Beer Male Choir, Paterson*

Founded: mentioned in November 1890

**Lassalle Männerchor, Paterson**

*Lassalle Male Choir, Paterson*

Founded: mentioned in February 1898

QUEENS
--------

**Frohsinn Männerchor, College Point**

*Joy Male Choir, College Point*

Founded: mentioned in March 1891

**Internationale Männerchor, Woodside**

*International Male Choir, Woodside*

Founded: mentioned in October 1900

**Deutsche Sängerkunst, Corona**

*German Joy of Singing*

Founded: mentioned in March 1891-May 1892

---

<sup>1</sup> Lassallea is named after Ferdinand Lassalle, and Ottensen was a working class district in Hamburg with a vibrant labor movement.

<sup>2</sup> Fritz Reuter (1810-1874): German writer from Mecklenburg. At the University of Jena, he joined a liberal student group "Germania" advocating political freedom and German national unification. The group organized demonstrations and revolutionary lectures. The government cracked down on all radical students and Reuter was arrested and imprisoned for crimes against the Prussian state.