

Music in the Key of Geneva



Amelia Calabrese, shown with The Five Sharps, was a fixture at any musical event in the mid-1900s.

Mr. WRIGHT respectfully announces to the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Village of Geneva, that he will give a **CONCERT**, of **Instrumental Music**, on Thursday Evening, 30th inst. at Mr. Hemenway's Hotel, at 8 o'clock precisely Mr. W. will be assisted by the Gentlemen Amateurs of the "**Amphion Phil-Harmonic Society**."

PART I.

1.—Overture to Lodoiska,* (full Orchestra),	KREWITZER.
2.—Neapolitan Waltz,*	SAUST.
3.—Jaeger Chorus, in "Der Frieschitz,"*	VON WEBER.
4.—O Dolce Concerto, (with Variations on the Double Flagelet—by Mr. Wright),	CATALINA.
5.—Grand Military Waltz,* (full Band, &c.)	MOZART.
6.—Blue Bells of Scotland,* (as a Solo of the Violin,)	WILLIS.
7.—Bugle Quick March,	CURPHEW.
8.—Echo,	

PART II.

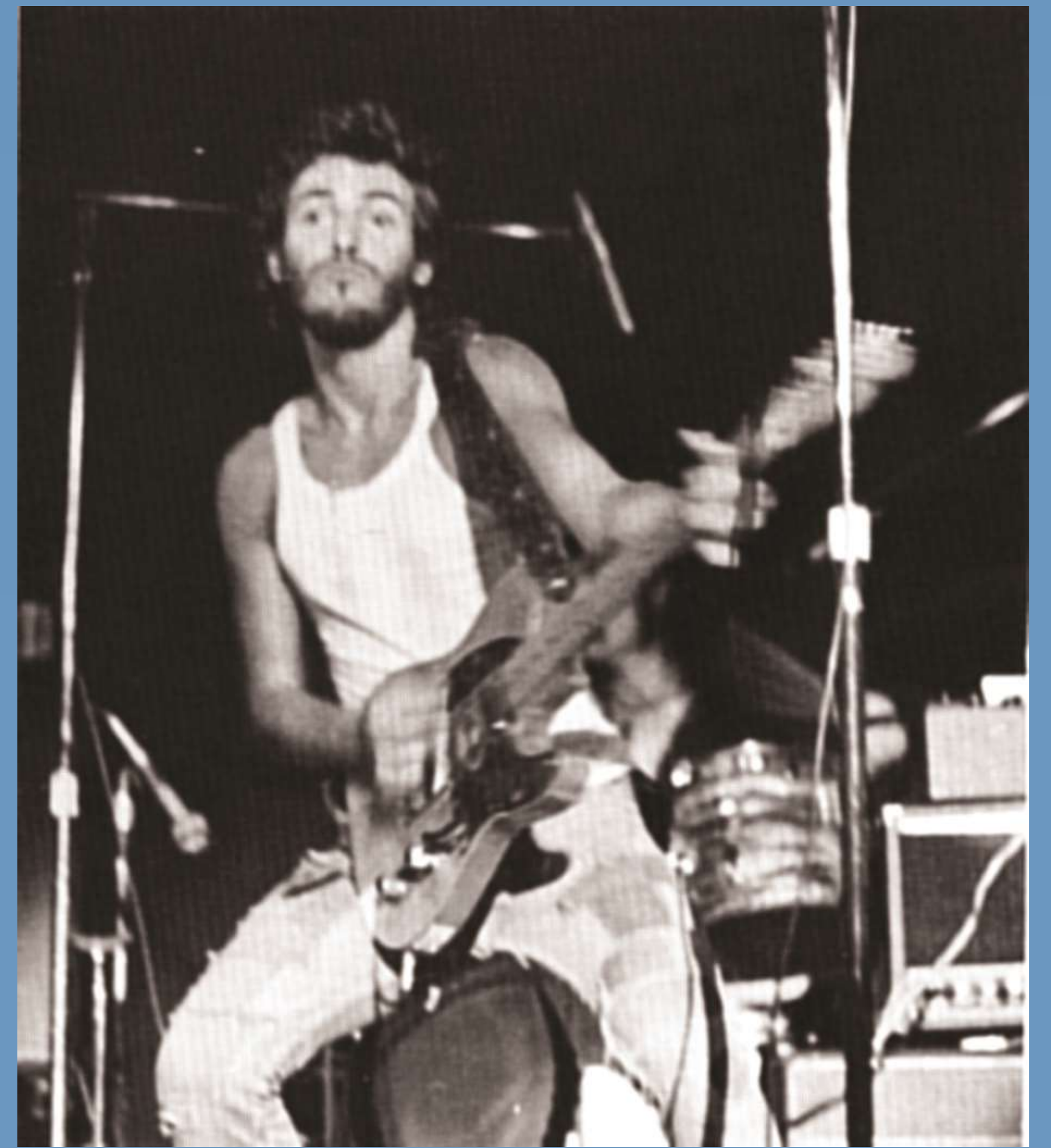
9.—Amphion Waltz,	WRIGHT.
10.—"Sul margine d'un rio,"*	
(Variations on the Clarinet—by Mr. Wright,)	MOZART.
11.—Rondeau, "Nightingale" Flute Obligato,*	
12.—Song—"My Jocky is far at sea,"*	
13.—"When thy bosom heaves the sigh,"*	
(as a Duett, on two Flutes,)	BRAHAM.
14.—"Last Rose of Summer," (Double Flagelet,)	MOORE.
15.—Glockenspiel,*	MOZART.
16.—CHEMUNG CANAL MARCH,*	
(expressly for the occasion,)	WRIGHT.

N. B.—The pieces marked thus (*) have been arranged for the "Amphion Society" by Mr. Watson, since his arrival in this village.

TICKETS may be had at the Bookstore, J. Bogert, and at the Hotel. Single Tickets 50 cents—Tickets a Gentleman and two Ladies \$1.

GENEVA, 29TH APRIL, 1829.

Formal concerts were held in Geneva as early as 1829. Advertisement for a concert at the hotel on Pulteney Square (now Pulteney Apartments).



In 1974 Bruce Springsteen played the Geneva Theater (now Smith Opera House) as an unknown musician. Courtesy of Hobart & William Smith Colleges

Geneva has always been full of music. Join the Geneva Historical Society and community partners in celebrating the people and traditions of Geneva's musical past and present.

You'll find these exhibits displayed in public places around Geneva:



Shall We Dance?



I Dig Rock and Roll Music



Lift Every Voice and Sing



Time to Play Music



Musicians Extraordinary



I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing



Come Hear the Music Play



Teaching and Composing



Just Folks, Making Music Together

This project is made possible by the Geneva Historical Society, the Museum Association of New York, and the support of local businesses and community organizations.



MUSEUM ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

Shall We Dance?

Local and traveling dance bands have kept Genevans moving at sorority and fraternity socials, benevolent society balls, and dance halls. Club 86 was a favorite place for wedding receptions. Record hops were held at DeSales High School, the Rollerdrome on Lyons Road, and many other venues.

During World War II and the Korean War, the USO on Main Street drew many to their dances. Earlier, in the 1800s, house, grove and barn dances led by fiddlers were popular, along with more formal balls at the Geneva Hotel on Pulteney Park and Franklin House on Exchange Street.

The launching of the sloop [Alexander] being an unusual event, the people came from far and near to witness it, and among them was Major James Cochran, then a young man. At night the young people wanted a dance, and having a fiddle young Cochran, who was an amateur performer, was pressed into service.

-1796 account at the launching of Seneca Lake's first sloop



Dousek's Orchestra (pictured here) and octets of violin, flute, guitar and woodwinds were popular for dances during the early 20th century.



During World War II and the Korean War, the USO held dances for sailors and airmen, respectively, from Sampson. Dances were segregated and African American bands played for servicemen of color.

For several decades the Aeneas McDonald Patrolman's Benevolent Association brought in big bands and vocalists for their annual ball.



Geneva's Syrian community is known for its hafflis (parties) with Middle Eastern food, music, and dancing.
Courtesy of Madge Salem



In 1956 Belhurst Castle had a regular combo for dining and dancing that included Art Dwyer (clarinet), Jimmy Lynch (piano), and Joe LaFaro (violin).

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Geneva has rich expressions of faith through music. Music has ways of expressing hope, grief, joy, longing, comfort and peace that words alone cannot. We are moved and inspired by musical offerings of our celebrations and prayers.



The First United Methodist Church (above) and St. Francis DeSales Roman Catholic Church each have carillons that play hymns and special music at designated times.

During Las Posadas before Christmas, Latino families go from house to house and sing about the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.
Courtesy of Spencer Tulis

Trinity Episcopal Church Girls Junior Choir, 1952.



[Prior to 1808] Mrs. Lowthrop was the first organist of Trinity Church. She played the small melodeon at the services which were held in a school house situated on the west side of Pulteney Park.

- Trinity Episcopal Church history

Simchat Torah is a Jewish holiday of dancing and singing with the Torah scrolls. Temple Beth-El, early 1950s.
Courtesy of Marge Emmerman



Formed by Patrisha Blue in the 1980s, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Choir is open to all singers and performs each year for Geneva's MLK Day service.

Courtesy of Spencer Tulis

Eli A. Bronson,
One of Geneva's oldest residents, died at the home of his daughter Mrs. Little in Brooklyn last Saturday, May 4th. He was born in New Haven, Conn., April 13, 1837, and in April, 1829 came to Geneva with his parents. Their early home was on the Castle road.
He was a member and officer of the First Presbyterian Church, and wise and prudent in its counsels. For a great many years he had charge of the music of the church, at one time having a choir of forty voices. Ah! Those were the days of church music. He organized the first chorus that sang in Union Thanksgiving service, and the first time the beautiful cantata of "Esther" was rendered here was under his direction, he taking the part of King, Miss Julia Munson being Queen. Two only of the leading members of that chorus are living here now. What a bass voice he had! We have heard his tones drop to a low B. flat. Several times he was director of the "Old Folk's Concerts," down on the program as "Father Bronson." He was honest and square, and he loved old Geneva.



St. Michael's Orthodox Church choir with long-time organist Jewel Hara.

Eli Bronson, who died in 1907, was a musical mainstay of the First Presbyterian Church for many decades.

I Dig Rock and Roll Music

Rock and roll began in the United States, and Geneva, as a youth movement. Famous musicians no longer traveled by train to every town to play as they did decades earlier, instead they earned a living from record sales and large concerts. Local bands formed to learn the hit songs and meet the demand for live music. They played at Geneva and DeSales High School dances, W GVA record hops, and fraternity parties from Hobart to Cornell to Oswego.

Geneva is still on the small-venue concert circuit. Performers can be seen and heard at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, local theaters, and seasonal festivals.



One distinction among bands was being old enough to play in bars. Mother Freedom was older guys who went to California for a short time. The Echomen and The Classmates were both high school bands but still had plenty of jobs at dances, parties, and the Seneca Ordnance Depot officers and non-commissioned officers clubs.



Image from the Donnie Dee Band
From left are Don D'Eredita, Ernie Pickard, Larry Burman, Angelo Simone and Dick Yannotti in 1963. They were part of the popular band Donnie Dee and the Diamonds

In 1964 The Tokens (left) played record hops three nights a week in Geneva and around the area. Wilmer and the Dukes (center) was the best-known band in the late 1960s, in high demand for college parties. Donnie Dee and the Diamonds played around New York State including a stint at Café Wha? in Greenwich Village.



But I seriously doubt if [students] would care to include [rock and roll] in their life-long pattern of musical entertainment, or even their dancing routines.

- Godfrey Brown, Geneva High School band teacher, 1956

Time To Play Music

Not only have Genevans enjoyed the music of others, they have enjoyed making music themselves. Some join groups to hone their skills and play in concerts or other performances. Others play alone or in home groups for their own pleasure. From Suzuki string lessons for children to middle-aged garage bands, Genevans will continue making music.



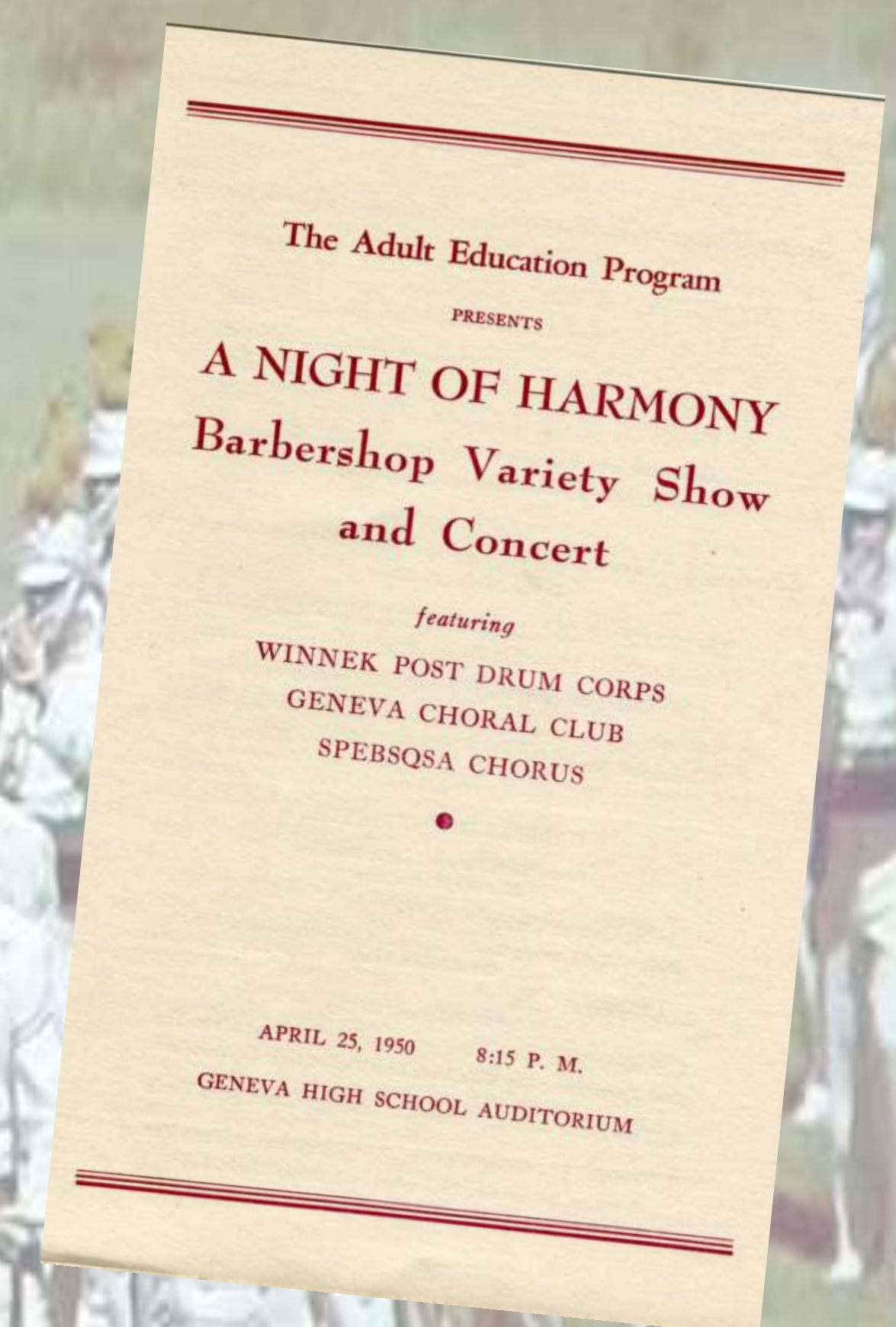
Formed in 1922, the Tuesday Piano Quartette plays music for eight hands. They rarely perform but meet every week for their own enjoyment.

All of a sudden the house is empty, I got time to play music. Hey, let's get together and do this.

- Mike George, Area Records owner, on older amateur musicians returning to making music.



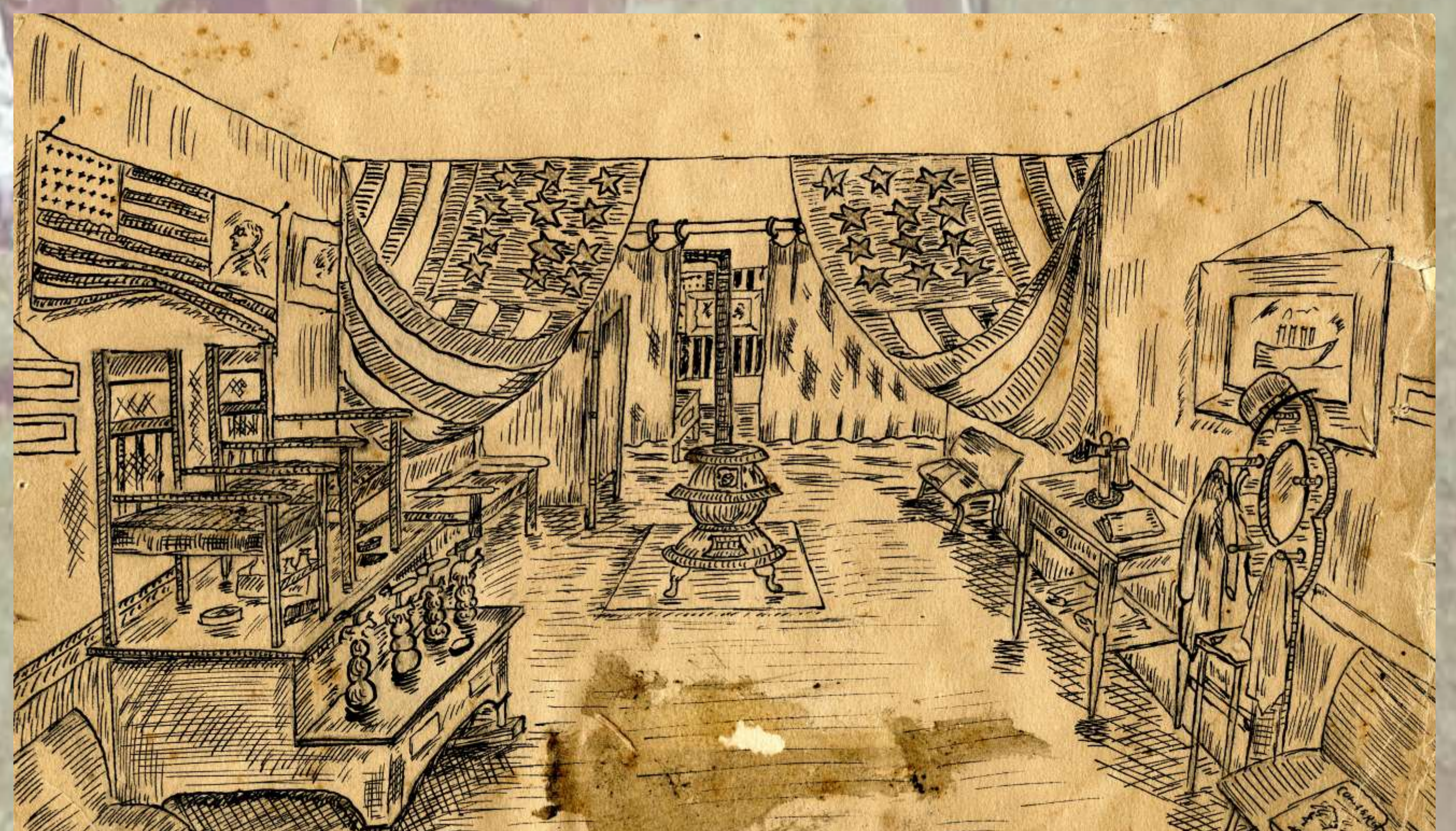
The Seneca Symphony Orchestra, shown with some members in 1952, was one of several amateur orchestras that have been in the area.



Variety shows were a fun way to share and showcase the talents of friends and neighbors in Geneva. Variety and talent shows entertained both the performers and audience members.



Puerto Rican workers at the Comstock Canning Company in 1953 socialize with music after work.



In the mid-1900s local men and Hobart students gathered at Art Kenney's shoe shine shop on Exchange Street to learn songs and sing in harmony with Art.

I'd Like to Teach the World To Sing

Geneva school students have enjoyed a strong music program for over a hundred years. Parents and friends have attended holiday and seasonal concerts in the school auditoriums. After graduation, many musicians went on to perform everywhere from churches to wedding receptions.



"One of the most rapidly increasing organizations in the school is this chorus. This year, the third under the able leadership of Mr. Kenneth Collins, there are over one hundred members." - 1932 Geneva High School yearbook



Bob Bardeen taught Junior High (above) and Senior High band for many years.



Many students, like James Eddington Class of 2006, explore new kinds of music after graduation.



Established in 2005, St. Peter's Community Arts Academy offers instrumental, voice, and dance lessons to provide "Arts for All."

It was possible to graduate from Geneva High School well prepared to go to music school, and many did.

– Robert Wooley

Hobart & William Smith Colleges goes beyond offering a music degree. Anyone can take lessons and play in ensembles for enjoyment. There are three extracurricular *a cappella* singing groups on campus as well.



Guitar instructor Benjamin Ellis works with a student in the Gearan Center for the Performing Arts.

Perfect Third (below) is a co-ed *a cappella* group. Three Miles Lost is solely William Smith students, with The Hobartones representing the men.



Hobart had a Banjo and Glee Club from the early 1880s through the early 20th century.