

June 27, 2015

For Immediate Release

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Laurel Hill Mansion Hosts archivist and music historian Jack McCarthy



On Sunday, August 16, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.
at Laurel Hill Mansion, Randolph Drive, East Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, PA 19121
Lecturer Jack McCarthy will present

MUSIC OF ANTEBELLUM PHILADELPHIA
An illustrated lecture on music in Philadelphia 1820 to 1860,
featuring archival images and audio recordings

The public is invited to hear archivist and music historian Jack McCarthy in a program presented by The Women for Greater Philadelphia at 2 p.m., Sunday, August 16, 2015 at Laurel Hill Mansion in historic Fairmount Park. He will give a multifaceted talk about Philadelphia's active and diverse musical life in the years leading up to the Civil War. Although it was no longer the preeminent American musical city it had been at the beginning of the nineteenth century, Philadelphia was still an important music center in the antebellum period and home to numerous active musicians and musical organizations. This one-hour presentation combines lecture, archival images, and recorded examples. It highlights the leading performing artists and composers, musical organizations and ensembles, the concert halls and music venues of the period. Among many interesting stories, the presentation features the founding of the nation's oldest continuously active musical organization, the Philadelphia bandleader and composer who was the first African American to have his music published and first American to lead a musical ensemble on a tour of Europe. Attendees will also learn about the establishment of the city's first major orchestras, the rise of grand opera and the building of the nation's oldest opera house that is still used as such.

Jack McCarthy is a longtime Philadelphia archivist and historian who specializes in Philadelphia music history. Jack has a master's degree in music history and regularly lectures, writes, and gives walking tours on Philadelphia music. He has directed or participated in several local music history projects, including serving as consulting archivist/historian for the award-winning 2013 radio documentary *Going Black: The Legacy of Philly Soul Radio* and for the Philadelphia Orchestra's 2012/2013 Leopold Stokowski centennial celebration. A certified archivist, Jack has held leadership positions at several area historical organizations and is currently directing a major archival project for the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

The cost of the program is \$15.00, there will be a \$5:00 discount for members of Women for Greater Philadelphia. Tickets are available at www.laurelhillmansion.org. Tickets may also be purchased at the door with an advance reservation. Please e-mail events@laurelhillmansion.com to reserve. Parking is free.