

THE MEDFORD CHORAL SOCIETY

Its Early Composition, And Opening Notes & Soundings (c. 1934 – 1937)

[“The Medford Ladies’ Choral Society Starts Well”](#) *Patchogue Advance*, 12/7/1934, p. 1
Chronicles the unexpectedly high number of attendees at the first meeting of what was then known as the “Medford Ladies’ Choral Society”, at Medford Community Hall, and the organizers’ optimism in regard to future enrollment and to future concerts. Also, their repertoire appears to encompass vocal pieces in English and in German. Another group of Medford-area vocalists, the Harmony Singing Society (founded in 1926, and whose activities are also reported on in the *Advance* as far back as the late 1920s), is also mentioned; that night, meetings of both groups took place, apparently to accommodate the Choral Society’s director. Although explicitly separate that night, the two groups would eventually partner, and be in harmony for, among other things, [some social meetings toward the end of the following year](#), and [a New Year’s Eve party](#).

[“Medford”](#) *Patchogue Advance*, 1/18/1935, p. 13

One of several contemporaneous mentions of what appears to be either a fundraiser or a general social event put on by the group, namely a card party, at which prizes were awarded in several well-known card games. [Another such party would be held in May of that same year](#), and would go on to become something of a regular event.

[“Medford”](#) *Patchogue Advance*, 6/12/1936, p. 12

A June concert, **which would become an annual event**, at times in concert with the aforementioned Harmony Singing Society, and held at Medford Community Hall.

[“Medford Choral Soc. Concert Next Week”](#) *Patchogue Advance*, 10/15/1937, p. 1

By this time, the Society is apparently being referred to by the *Advance* as the “Medford Choral Society” (but would still be referred to by the *Advance* as the “Medford Ladies’ Choral Society” until at least the late 1940s, and its praises would still be sung in

conjunction the Harmony Singing Society), and it counts both men and women among its membership, which is reportedly 50 voices strong, a number which would increase over the next few years. As the 1940s and 1950s wore on, the group would eventually be composed, permanently, of both men and women.

[Medford Choral Society Collection](#)

A collection of historic photographs of the Society, from the collections of the Celia M. Hastings Room.

*Compiled and edited by Gary Lutz
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