

= Robert Schmertz (artist) =

Robert Watson " Bob " Schmertz (March 4 , 1898 ? June 7 , 1975) was a Pittsburgh @-@ based architect and folk musician whose music has been covered by Pete Seeger , Burl Ives , Tennessee Ernie Ford , Bill and Gloria Gaither , The Statler Brothers , The Cathedrals , Dailey & Vincent , the River City Brass Band , and Ernie Haase & Signature Sound . Born in Squirrel Hill , Pittsburgh , Pennsylvania , Schmertz attended the Carnegie Institute of Technology , where he wrote the Carnegie Tartans ' fight song , " Fight for the Glory of Carnegie , " and played the banjo in a jazz orchestra ; after he graduated with an architecture degree in 1921 , Schmertz designed buildings . He taught at Carnegie for more than thirty @-@ five years before his retirement .

As a folk musician , Schmertz released four albums , with his third , Sing Oh ! The City Oh ! : Songs of Early Pittsburgh , in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Pittsburgh 's founding ; a reviewer for Keystone Folklore Quarterly called it " tuneful and well @-@ done in the folk tradition " . Before his death , Schmertz completed a book of his songs , but died before it published . Ten days after he suffered a stroke , Schmertz died on June 7 , 1975 .

= = Early life = =

Schmertz was born on March 4 , 1898 , in Squirrel Hill , Pittsburgh , Pennsylvania . After he completed studies at Peabody High School , where he met his future wife , Mildred , Schmertz attended the Carnegie Institute of Technology (today , Carnegie Mellon University) . In May 1917 Schmertz , dressed in " light flannel trousers , a girl 's middy blouse and a small white hat , " was arrested after he stood outside a theater and encouraged persons exiting the theater to join the navy as , according to Schmertz , a part of an initiation ritual to join a fraternity ; he was charged with mocking the uniform but a magistrate later dismissed the charge .

At Carnegie , Schmertz wrote the Carnegie Tartans ' fight song , " Fight for the Glory of Carnegie " , wrote college musicals , led a dance band , played the banjo in a jazz orchestra , and worked on the Carnegie yearbook staff . In 1921 , he graduated with a degree in architecture .

= = Architecture and professorship = =

As an architect , Schmertz designed the St. Michael 's of the Valley Church in Rector , Pennsylvania , and the renovation of the Unity Chapel in Latrobe , Pennsylvania . In 1930 , the Common Brick Manufacturers ' Association of America in Cleveland , Ohio , awarded Schmertz an honorable mention in a " houses already built " contest . Three years later , Schmertz served on a Pittsburgh @-@ based American Institute of Architects executive committee that sought to identify western Pennsylvanian buildings constructed before 1860 . Schmertz worked as a member of Fisher and Schmertz , and , later , headed the firm of Schmertz , Erwin and Associates . According to George Swetnam of The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine , " many " of the buildings Schmertz designed were homes .

Schmertz taught design at the Carnegie Institute of Technology for more than thirty @-@ five years . At Carnegie , Schmertz worked on a team that designed a cyclotron for the university in Saxonburg , Pennsylvania . Schmertz retired from his professorship in 1965 (named a professor emeritus) , but was teaching at the university in 1973 .

= = Folk musician = =

In 1949 , Schmertz , who played the banjo in college , recorded an LP , Songs by Robert Schmertz , after his friends bought him studio time . Schmertz 's second studio album , Robert Schmertz Sings His Songs , was released in 1955 : from the album , Burl Ives covered " Angus McFergus McTavish Dundee " on the Captain Kangaroo show .

By 1958 , a writer for the Deadwood Pioneer @-@ Times in Deadwood , South Dakota , wrote that Schmertz was " rapidly gaining national prominence as an interpreter of American musical and

lyrical idiom " after Schmertz wrote a song , " Swing Away , Pearly Gates , " for Edmund Karlsrud and the Concertmen , who performed it as a part of their 1957 ? 1958 tour . In 1958 , composer Elie Seigmeister and lyricist Edward Mabley cited Schmertz 's " Monongahela Sal " and " Lock No . Ten " as inspiration for The Mermaid in Lock No. 7 , a musical " in the folk idiom , expanded by modern , sophisticated treatment " that debuted at the American Wind Symphony Orchestra .

Schmertz 's third album , Sing Oh ! the City Oh ! : Songs of Early Pittsburgh , released on Folkways Records in 1959 , featured folk songs , such as " Celeron " , named after Pierre Joseph Céloron de Blainville , and " The Battle of Bushy Run " , after the battle of the same name , in commemoration of the bicentennial of Pittsburgh 's founding . A reviewer for Keystone Folklore Quarterly described the album , to which two of his children , Gretchen Schmertz Jacob and John Schmertz , contributed , as " tuneful and well @-@ done in the folk tradition " . A reviewer for Billboard magazine called it a " fascinating package of songs " that " will appeal to folklorists , educational groups , and , of course , residents of Pittsburgh particularly " . Schmertz released his final album , Ladies Beware of an Architect : Songs for Architects and Their Girlfriends , in 1960 .

Schmertz 's music has been covered by Pete Seeger , who called Schmertz a " very good songwriter " , Burl Ives , Tennessee Ernie Ford , Bill and Gloria Gaither , The Statler Brothers , The Cathedrals , Dailey & Vincent , the River City Brass Band , and Ernie Haase & Signature Sound .

= = Later life = =

In 1970 , Schmertz retired from his position at Schmertz , Erwin and Associates . In 1973 , he resided in Ben Avon , Pennsylvania . With his wife , Mildred Floyd , an art teacher , Schmertz had four children : Gretchen Schmertz Jacob , John , Jack , and Mildred .

Before his death , Schmertz compiled a book on his songs , though he died before it published . Ten days prior to his death , Schmertz sustained a stroke , and , on June 7 , 1975 , died after a long illness .