State Affiliation

- A large structural change at Pitt occurred in the second half of the 1960s as Pitt faced a $4.5 million debt from the 1964 fiscal year alone.
- Financial tensions pervaded campus and were compounded by the Vietnam War and civil tensions resulting in budgets and allocations being frequently questioned, even for student organizations.
- State affiliation required restructuring Pitt’s administration and ended university sponsorship of religious events, notably the weekly Protestant services in fall 1966.
- Continuation of HCC was most questioned at this time, but gained approval to continue as a performance-based ensemble.

Choir’s Visual Appearance

- HCC performed in choir robes and caps paid for by the Heinz Family until 1966, when the cap was removed due to its religious association.
- From the 1970s on, conductors chose ‘modern’ choir apparel until the late 80s when the robes were used to harken back to older tradition. These were soon discontinued and now HCC uses a tux and gown combination.

Repertoire Changes

- Throughout liturgical performances, repertoire consisted of varying weekly service anthems and a “Sevenfold Amen”, also established a tradition of singing “Brother James’ Air”.
- In 1967 repertoire immediately diversified with inclusion of Jewish anthems and choral canon.
- The 1970s brought conductors that rebranded HCC with secular and avant-garde pieces.
- For the past thirty years HCC has performed a balance of secular and sacred works, but has a rich history of variety due to conductor preference and academic purpose.