

## History of the St. Andrew's Parish High School ALMA MATER

Thanks to Steve Sopko '64

The music and many words of our Alma Mater came from a musical comedy called "THE PRINCE OF PILSEN" which opened in Boston in 1902. The actual song was the **HEIDELBERG STEIN SONG** from that score - but only the "REFRAIN" passage is our entire Alma Mater (words adjusted).

The phrase in the song "HERE'S TO" repeatedly is what the Germans do when standing around a piano, etc., to salute by hoisting their steins of beer - basically just about anything you could think of ..... as .... each "HERE'S TO" got them another large drink of beer from their steins.

As the story goes (pretty well substantiated) ----- Dennis Lee of the Classes of 64 and 65 and until his death in 2012 was owner of one of the biggest alcohol distributors in Charleston - well, his father was with his father in Germany in/around the early '40's. They fell for the taste of German Pilsner and thought they would arrange to have it exported to Charleston and to their company. Also - they brought back a song they had heard/sung in the pilsner houses and as Dennis Lee's dad was in the first classes when St. Andrew's High was first formed - this refrain from the song was lifted, words were adjusted and it became the Alma Mater.

Robert Blocker '64, Dean of the Yale School of Music, used the actual music in the attached original score to write the music sheets for the Yale Chorus so as to be exactly true to the original melody.

### ST. ANDREW'S PARISH HIGH SCHOOL ALMA MATER

Here's to the land that gave us birth,  
Here's to the flag she flies.  
Here's to our sons, the best on earth,  
Here's to her smiling skies.  
Here's to our Alma Mater dear,  
True as the stars above,  
Here's to our faith and honor dear,  
Here's to the school we love.  
St. Andrew's School, St. Andrew's School,  
We never shall forget.  
The golden haze of student days  
is 'round about us yet.  
The days of yore will come no more,  
But thru the future years  
The thought of you, so good, so true,  
Will fill our eyes with tears.  
The thought of you, so good, so true,  
Will fill our eyes with tears