McLean County Museum of History

Amateur Musical Club Collection

Reorganized by Torii Moré
May 2011

Collection Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOLUME OF COLLECTION:</th>
<th>3 Boxes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COLLECTION DATES:</td>
<td>1893-1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESTRICTIONS:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:</td>
<td>Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER FINDING AIDS:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCATION:</td>
<td>Archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOTES:</td>
<td>Collection also contains 13 Scrapbooks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Historical Sketch

(Adapted from historical sketch by member Louise A. Lange in folder 2)

The Amateur Musical Club (AMC) was started in 1893 by Mrs. Theodore Thomas, Charlotte Burr Harwood (who served as first president until 1896), Bernice Kidder Green, and Mary Fridley Fleming to encourage “mutual improvement of its members both in vocal and instrumental music and for general music culture.” The founders were serious in their endeavor and quickly adopted a constitution. New members were voted in by ballot and membership was limited to 30 active members, 10 literary members, 15 students, and 150 associates. Dues were set at $2 for members and $3 for associates. In these early days, the club’s high standards made it an exclusive club.

Harwood served as first president until the club was reorganized in 1896 and a new constitution approved. The new constitution slightly increased the membership to 35 active musical members, 10 “musically intelligent” literary members, 20 students and 175 associate members, including men. Regular musical afternoon meetings alternated Saturdays from October until May, and there were three meetings for active members for “transaction of business and social intercourse” in November, January, and March. The annual meeting was held the first Saturday in May. In addition to meetings, 17 club recitals were given in the 1896-7
year. Each member was required to put on a recital once a year or forfeit their membership. Over time afternoon recitals were given to outside artists, but it was traditionally only for members. These first afternoon programs were held at Cooper Hall in the Hoblit Building, 526-530 N. Main St., and later the Unitarian Church became the usual meeting place. Annual meetings were held in the large private homes of the more affluent members.

The 1896 constitution changed the “just for us” attitude of the club to an “increased opportunities for hearing good music” attitude that welcomed the public to concerts. Most people who knew AMC after that time probably associate it with the wonderful community concerts it sponsored. These artist recitals became a major part of the club’s season. In addition to Cooper Hall and the Unitarian Church, the Grand (or Chatterton) Opera House on East Market Street was used occasionally. Eventually concerts were moved to the barn-like Coliseum, which had “noisy seats and a metal roof that magnified the sound of every rain drop on a stormy night.” Austrian-American singer Schumann-Heink said there were two places in the US that had perfect acoustics—one was an old barn in Bloomington, Illinois, and the other the Hollywood Bowl.

The first “artist’s recital” was December 1, 1896 when Leopold Godowsky appeared at the Unitarian Church. Tickets were 50 cents. Sometimes local people who had moved on to greener pastures came back to give a concert. Lyell Barber, pianist, Grace Wagner, M. Jeannette Loudon, Mrs. Deane Funk, all played concerts. Perhaps the biggest homecoming was Bloomington native Minnie Saltzman Stevens in November 1910. Her concert was at the Chatterton Opera House, with Florence Fifer Bohrer in charge of ticket sales. Some big-name concert performers include Paderewski, Schumann-Heink, Louise Homer, and Fritz Kreisler.

Beginning in 1911 the May Festival concert was an annual event. When World War I came around May Festival ended and the club sponsored community sings, and patriotic music either started or ended all concerts. The club invested in Liberty Bonds, and by 1919 they invested $500 in them. At that time there were 107 active members and 183 associate members. By the end of the 25th anniversary year AMC had given 224 recitals and 80 concerts.

While manifesting itself in different ways, the Amateur Musical Club maintained a certain constancy of musical purpose. The AMC decided to disband in 1993, on its 100th birthday. By that time most of the club’s focus was on student members, youth orchestra, summer music camp, and college scholarship programs. AMC put Bloomington-Normal on the musical map, and brought the best of the music world to our door.

Scope Note
This collection contains programs (1897-1993), yearbooks (1893-1993), financial records, annual meeting minutes, newsletters, and newspaper clippings related to the Amateur Musical Club in Bloomington, Illinois.

Box and Folder Inventory
Box 1
Folder 1: Gift Agreements & History
1.1.1 Note that says “Amateur Musical Club Donated 11-12-97 (Joan Willis) 97-11-02” and “Collection includes 13 scrapbooks in annex”
1.1.2 May 18, 1982. Thank you for donation from Greg Koos
1.1.3 Gift agreement for records of final years of club. Disbanded in 1993 after 100 years.
1.1.4 Brief history of the Amateur Musical Club and a list of performers 1904-1934 (draft and final copy, 3-4 pages)
Folder 2: 100th Anniversary
1.2.1 Celebration of a Century of Music invitation
1.2.2 100th Anniversary Celebration flier
1.2.3 Amateur Musical Club-The Early Years by Louise A. Lange written for the 100th Anniversary Celebration March 23, 1993
1.2.4 Guest book for A Century of Music
1.2.5 Thank-you card from Anne Hastings Fiedler, Professor of Music at the University of Evansville

Folder 3: 75th Anniversary
1.3.1 Financial book and account balances
1.3.2 Temporary Receipt for savings account loan
1.3.3 Letter from Mrs. Charles A. Funk, president of the Amateur Musical Club to Kurt Weinhold at Columbia Artists Management
1.3.4 75th Anniversary program, 1893-1968

Folder 4: Constitution and By-Laws
1.4.1 Two small constitution and by-laws booklets
1.4.2 Copy of constitution
1.4.3 Letter to active member regarding special meeting for proposed article of constitution March 2, 1968.
1.4.4 1976 revision of constitution
1.4.5 Proposition of amendments (4)
1.4.6 Letter to AMC member in 1983 regarding amendments

Folder 5: Booklets (includes upcoming schedule and membership list), Newsletters, 1 Magazine and Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings
1.5.1 1930-1931 Booklet
1.5.2 1942-1943 Booklet
1.5.3 1953-1954 Booklet
1.5.4 1974-1975 Booklet
1.5.5 Amateur Musical Club News Spring 1960 (2 copies)
1.5.6 Bravo! Volume 1, Number 4. 1961-1962 magazine
1.5.7 “Amateur Musical Students Plan Opening Concert”
1.5.8 “How Time Flies”
1.5.9 “Music Students to Enter Concert”
1.5.10 Sunday, March 24, 1968. “Musical Club Pioneer Dies” (Harriet Thomas)

Folder 6: Miscellaneous Programs 1897-1940
1.6.1 November 6, 1897, featuring Miss Lilian Owen, Miss Grace Wilcox, Mrs. B. S. Green, Miss Harriet Weakly, Mrs. Charles Carroll Brown, Miss Thompson, and others
1.6.2 Amateur Musical Club October 30, 1908. Mrs. Harriet Weakley Thomas, Mr. Arthur Dunham, Miss Evelyn Mayes
1.6.3 May Music Festival, Frederick Stock, Orchestra Leader, May 23-24, 1910
1.6.4 Liszt Centenary Concert with Riccardo Martin and Rudolf Ganz, November 3, 1911,
1.6.5 AMC Third Annual Music Festival, Theodore Thomas Orchestra and Frederick Stock, Conductor, Coliseum, April 26, 1912
1.6.6 November 2, 1912. AMC Organ Day
1.6.7 Chicago Opera Quartet November 12, 1912.
1.6.8 Annual Banquet given by The Ladies Auxiliary November 30, 1912.
1.6.9 Enrico Palmetto and Herbert McFarren, November 23.
1.6.10 “The Class Play” April 3, 1913.
1.6.11 Home Coming Concert by Miss Grace Wagner, Chatterton Opera House, October 25, 1915.
1.6.12 AMC Song Recital by Madame Julia Clauussen, Coliseum, November 1916.
1.6.13 Fritz Kreisler in Concert, the Coliseum, March 6, 1917.
1.6.14 Victory Festival with The Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra, Emil Oberhoffer, Conductor, BHS May 16, 1919
1.6.15 Junior Recital March 6, 1920
1.6.16 Arthur Middleton, baritone, Coliseum, November 29, 1920
1.6.17 Mary Garden, Coliseum, November 27, 1922
1.6.18 Amateur Musical Club calendar, coming concerts & recitals to be given from November 1925 to May 1926
1.6.19 Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Ossip Gabrilowitsch, Conductor, The Coliseum, January 17, 1927
1.6.20 Paderewski, Coliseum, April 27, 1931 (2)
1.6.21 Col. De Basil’s Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, December 13, 1934
1.6.22 Sergei Rachmaninoff, November 11, 1935
1.6.23 Free Sunday Concert Series “The Messiah” sung by Bloomington Philharmonic Chorus, Coliseum, December 15, 1935
1.6.24 Lauritz Melchoir, May 4, 1937
1.6.25 Gertrud Wettergren, October 1937
1.6.26 Ossy Renardy, November 22, 1937
1.6.27 Salzburg Opra Guild in Mozart’s two act comedy “Cosi Fan Tutte” December 13, 1937
1.6.28 John Charles Thomas, Baritone, October 31, 1938 2 copies.
1.6.29 Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, February 14, 1939

Folder 7: Miscellaneous Programs 1940-1986
1.7.1 Richard Crooks, Tenor/Metropolitan Opera Association, McCormick Gymnasium, December 9, 1942.
1.7.2 Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Fabian Sevitzky, Conductor, Consistory Auditorium, January 15, 1945.
1.7.3 Helen Traubel, Dramatic Soprano, Metropolitan Opera Association, Scottish Rite Temple, March 7, 1946.
1.7.4 The Cleveland Orchestra, George Szell, Conductor, Scottish Rite Temple, November 17, 1947.
1.7.5 Jennie Tourel, leading Mezzo-Soprano, Metropolitan Opera, George Reeves at the piano, Scottish Rite Temple, January 10, 1949.
1.7.6 March 2, 1949, Charles L. Wagner Production of The Barber of Seville, Scottish Rite Temple (3 copies)
1.7.7 1949-50 Community Concert Association presents The Comedy Dancers, Ruth Mata and Eugene Hari and Company In an Evening of “Danced Theatre” WITH Lothar Perl, Composer-Pianist (2 copies).
1.7.8 Student Division Recital January 1950
1.7.9 1950-51 Community Concerts presents Martha Lipton
1.7.10 1950-51 Community Concert Association presents Virginia Morley and Livingston Gearhart, Duo-Pianists
1.7.11 1950-51 Community Concert Association presents Slavenska’s Ballet Variante (2 copies).
1.7.12 1950-51 Community Concert Association presents La Traviata
1.7.13 1951-52 Community Concert Association presents Elena Nikolaidi, Prima Donna Contralto, Metropolitan Opera Association, assisted by Jan Fehr at the piano
1.7.14 1952-53 Community Concert Association presents Arthur Fielder and The Boston Pops Tour Orchestra
1.7.15 1953-54 Community Concert Association presents Vitya Vronsky and Victor Babin
1.7.16 1954-55 Community Concert Association presents Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo
1.7.17 1956-57 Community Concert Association presents The Paganini Quartet
1.7.18 1957-58 Community Concert Association presents Irmgard Seefried, soprano, and Wolfgang Schneiderhan, violinist
1.7.19 1957-58 Community Concert Association presents the Little Gaelic Singers of County Derry
1.7.20 1958-59 Community Concert Association presents Todd Duncan, baritone
1.7.21 1958-59 Community Concert Association presents Bambi Linn and Rod Alexander in their Dance Jubilee “From Minstrel Days to Swingtime”
1.7.22 1959-60 Community Concert Association presents Pierrette Alarie, coloratura soprano, and Leopold Simoneau, tenor.
1.7.23 1959-60 Community Concert Association presents Pierre Luboshutz and Genia Nemenoff, duet-pianists
1.7.24 1959-60 Community Concert Association presents The Paganini Quartet (Henri Temianka, Charles Libove, David Schwartz, and Lucien Laporte).
1.7.25 1960-61 Community Concert Association presents The Robert Joffrey Ballet.
1.7.26 AMC presents Luisa de Sett, Coloratura Soprano, BHS, April 4, 1961
1.7.27 AMC presents Lili Kraus, pianist 1969-1970
1.7.28 February 14, 1982.
1.7.29 Program notes & plans
1.7.30 AMC Student Recital Programs
1.7.31 AMC Adult Recital Programs
1.7.32 Year unknown, December 5, the Elschuco Trio of NY; Claire Dux and Frederick Schauwecker Tuesday, January 26.
1.7.33 Year unknown, AMC Annual Juvenile Program Saturday, March 4.
1.7.34 Year unknown, John Carter Tuesday November 18, Scottish Rite Temple
1.7.35 Year unknown, AMC presents Deane Funk, Clarence Mayer, Willis Harwood, and Mable Jones
1.7.36 Year unknown, Mildred Dilling, harpist, @ Bloomington High School Sunday April 11
1.7.37 Year unknown, Homecoming concert by Minnie Saltzman-Stevens Monday & Tuesday the 14th and 15th of November at Chatterton Opera House.
1.7.38 Year unknown, London String Quartet at Bloomington High School Saturday February 12
1.7.39 Year unknown, Mme. Blanche Marchesi and Brahm Van Den Berg at the piano

Folder 8: Publicity Notebook
1.8.1 Scrapbook containing newspaper clippings and event programs, 1922-1923

Folder 9: 1935 Club Directors Photo
1.9.1 October 6, 1935. Print of photograph and clipping of photograph in the Pantagaph

Folder 10: Community Concert Series Contracts & Correspondence
1.10.1 Contracts 1965-1975
1.10.2 December 10, 1965. Letter from J. Warren Tapscott to treasurers of all Community Concert Associations in the United States
1.10.3 December 6, 1968. Letter to Charles A. Funk from Rudolf Serkin regarding the upcoming concert
1.10.4 May 17, 1971. Letter from Earl E. Thomas to Miss Virginia Brian
1.10.5 AMC Community Concert Expenses June 1, 1972-May 1975
1.10.6 April 9, 1975. Letter from George Blake to Miss Phyllis Gehrt

Folder 11: 1976 Bicentennial
1.11.1 Program
1.11.2 Bicentennial band and chorus ticket
1.11.3 Correspondence concerning Moravian music
1.11.4 Transaction receipt from Brodt Music Company
1.11.5 Letter to members regarding Moravian Music Festival

**Folder 12: Musical Arts Series**

1.12.1 Musical Arts Series Spring Concert, May 1977
1.12.2 Master plan for “Friends of Chamber Music”
1.12.3 Articles of Agreement for Musical Arts Series
1.12.4 Meeting minutes December 9, 1976
1.12.5 Meeting minutes January 18, 1977
1.12.6 Meeting notes, February 7, 1977
1.12.7 Agreement for Services of Artists
1.12.8 Meeting notes, September 12
1.12.9 Meeting notes, October 4, 1977
1.12.10 Musical Arts Series program
1.12.11 Miscellaneous samples of treasurer’s materials
1.12.12 Letter from Sylvia regarding the Musical Arts Series 1980-81
1.12.13 March 29, 1980 letter to Amateur Musical Club member
1.12.14 May 28, 1982 letter to Mrs. Manahan from Earl E. Thomas
1.12.15 Musical Arts Series program ’82-’83
1.12.16 Musical Arts Series poster ’82-’83
1.12.17 Agreement between local presenter and artist
1.12.18 March 11, 1982 Letter from Jan Holly to Mrs. R. J. Bartram
1.12.19 Joanne Rile presents The Nordic Trio flier
1.12.20 Requisition form for publicity and advertising materials
1.12.21 Gummerman Printing Office receipts
1.12.22 Account summary 09/25/82
1.12.23 Flier for Maureen McNalley
1.12.24 Photo of unknown musician
1.12.25 Photo of the Nordic Trio
1.12.26 July 1, 1982 letter from Jan Holly to Mrs. J. R. Bartram regarding preliminary Nordic Trio program
1.12.27 Single Entry Ledger for Musical Arts Series

**Folder 13: 1985 Annual Meeting**

1.13.1 June 1985 Annual Meeting notes
1.13.2 1985-1986 booklet

**Folder 14: 1987-’89 Miscellaneous Documents**

1.14.1 1986-87 booklet
1.14.2 1987-1988 booklet
1.14.3 1989-1990 booklet
1.14.4 1989-1990 booklet revisions
1.14.5 Brief summary of group happenings 1987-1988
1.14.6 Newspaper clippings and letter to AMC member, 1987
1.14.7 Spooky S’Pianists October 31, 1987 program
1.14.8 Program for student member recital November 1, 1987
1.14.9 Letter to AMC members and attached newspaper clippings
1.14.11 Annual Dinner Meeting invitation June 2, 1987
1.14.12 Newspaper clippings from ’88 and a few photographs of AMC women’s chorus
1.14.13 Orpheus Club presents a Musical Celebration May 1, 1988
Folder 15: 1990 Misc. Documents

1.15.1 University of Illinois Assembly Hall presents La Boheme ticket stub March 1, 1990
1.15.2 La Boheme program
1.15.3 Letter regarding La Boheme
1.15.4 BNYS Newsletter
1.15.5 Newspaper clipping
1.15.6 Vesper Recital April 22, 1990
1.15.7 BNYS Spring Concert
1.15.8 Newspaper clippings
1.15.9 Student member recital program April 29, 1990
1.15.10 Annual dinner meeting invitation
1.15.11 Note to AMC Board Members regarding scholarship for Chris Nelson
1.15.12 BNYS Newsletter
1.15.13 Newspaper clippings
1.15.14 Invitation to the fall concert
1.15.15 BNYS concert November 20, 1990
1.15.16 AMC recital March 7, 1991
1.15.17 BNYS Newsletter
1.15.18 Newspaper clippings
1.15.19 Student member recital program, April 14, 1991
1.15.20 BNYS program
1.15.21 Invitation to the Fall Concert, 1991
1.15.22 Newspaper clippings
1.15.23 Amateur Musical Club Treasurer’s Report May 1990 to June 1991
1.15.24 Report of AMC women’s chorus June 1991
Congratulations to scholarship winners April 1991

Folder 16: 1991 Misc. Documents
1.16.1 Newspaper clippings
1.16.2 AMC fall coffee invitation
1.16.3 BNYS fall concert invitation November 1991
1.16.4 BNYS Newsletter October 1991
1.16.5 AMC student member recital
1.16.6 Newspaper clippings
1.16.7 Membership tea invitation
1.16.8 Invitation to become a member
1.16.9 BNYS spring concert April 28, 1992
1.16.10 Newspaper clippings
1.16.11 Upbeat Update Amateur Musical Club spring, 1992

Folder 17: 1992 misc. documents
1.17.1 Amateur Musical Club program
1.17.2 Newspaper clippings
1.17.3 Student member recital
1.17.5 Newspaper clipping
1.17.6 BNYS spring concert program
1.17.7 Flier for Awadagin Pratt May 1993
1.17.8 Pantagraph articles
1.17.9 Newspaper clippings
1.17.10 Wesleyan Civic Orchestra program
1.17.11 April 1, 1993 letter to members
1.17.12 June 29, 1993 annual meeting summary
1.17.13 Invitation to annual luncheon and meeting
1.17.14 Statement of accounts
1.17.15 Scholarships awarded '92-3
1.17.16 Letter to students who did not receive scholarships
1.17.17 List of auditions
1.17.18 Bloomington-Normal Youth Symphony summary sheet
1.17.19 Newspaper clipping about the ending of the AMC
1.17.20 Upbeat update Spring '92
1.17.21 Description of the Amateur Musical Club Scholarship Fund
1.17.22 Recommendation letter from Carol Churukian to Mario Pelusi

Folder 18: Final Year Miscellaneous
1.18.1 Newspaper Clippings
1.18.2 Century of Music Celebration program
1.18.3 Amateur Musical Club 100th anniversary adult member list
1.18.4 Musical Celebration on the Square flier
1.18.5 100th anniversary events and history program
1.18.6 Programs in an envelope
1.18.7 Amateur Musical Club Century of Music flier
1.18.8 Hand-written notes on the annual meeting
1.18.9 Annual meeting minutes
1.18.10 Letter of Understanding establishing the Amateur Musical Club Scholarship Fund
Folder 19: Steinway Piano- purchase and sale
1.19.1 Two checks to the Emerson Piano House
1.19.2 Correspondence between Dean Hilfinger and Mr. Deffenbaugh, July 1965
1.19.3 Correspondence between Dean Hilfinger and James Bicket of the Scottish Rite Temple, June ‘65
1.19.4 Letter from Mrs. Carole M. Ringer to Mrs. Colin Manahan August 31, 1976
1.19.5 Correspondence between Harry McClelland and Carole Ringer, January 1978
1.19.6 Receipt for $43.00
1.19.7 Letter from Albert C. Shaw, Director of the School of Music at IWU to Mrs. Manahan
1.19.8 Letters from Dean F. Hilfinger to Mrs. Manahan January 1978

Folder 20: IRS Documents

Folder 21: Memorials, Gifts, Trusts
1.21.1 Incomplete records of memorials in honor of deceased members

Folder 22: Neville Estate Trust
1.22.1 Amateur Musical Club presents an hour of music in memory of Edith Neville November 1, 1936
1.22.2 Receipts and Disbursements from November 1974- November 1975
1.22.3 Receipts and Disbursements of account to August 1938, July ’42-43, American State Bank
Correspondence
1.22.4 Amateur Musical Club Trust
1.22.5 Correspondence and legal documents related to the Edith Neville trust

Folder 23: Account Activity
1.23.1 Assets and transactions/ Account activity 1984-1990, approximately 60 pages

Loose Items:
1 Scrapbook of various programs with notes about the event
11 Bound Year Books (Showing members, officers, committees, programs, and constitution)
   1893-1903
   1904-1910
   1911-1917
   1919-1924
   1824-1934
   1935-1944
1944-1954
1954-1964
1964-1974
1974-1984
1984-1993

Box 2:
6 folders containing unbound minutes:
2.1.1 Annual Minutes 1943 – 1948
2.2.1 Annual Minutes 1948 – 1954
2.3.1 Annual Minutes 1955 – 1962
2.4.1 Annual Minutes 1963 – 1967
2.5.1 Annual Minutes 1967 – 1969
2.6.1 Annual Minutes 1969 – 1976

Loose Items:
Membership and dues logs:
1913-1916
1937-1938

Accounts and Cash Books with Treasurer’s Reports
September 1914 – January 1923
January 1923 – May 1931
May 1931 – June 1941
September 1941 – June 1945

Annual Minutes (bound or in binder)

June 1876 – May 1878 (bound)
May 1898 – Nov 1900 (bound)
December 1900 – April 1904 (bound)
May 1903 – May 1910 (bound)
June 1910 – May 1916 (bound)
May 1916 – May 1921 (bound)
July 1921 – May 1926 (bound)
June 1926 – May 1927 (bound)
May 1927 – May 1931 (loose leaf notebook in 2 ring binder)
May 1931 – January 1935 (loose leaf notebook in 2 ring binder)

1976 – 1985 (loose leaf notebook in 3 ring binder)

Box 3:
3.1.1 Tiny AMC account book Peoples Bank of Bloomington
3.1.2 AMC account book from ‘53
3.1.3 5 treasurers’ reports 1986-1991
3.1.4 AMC financial records from 1978
3.1.5 AMC financial records from 1972-3
3.1.6 Letter from Earl E. Thomas to Miss Louise Lange, Treasurer & financial records from 1984-85
3.1.7   Peoples bank receipt

**Loose Items:**
Annual Minutes (continued)
   1985 – 1987 (bound)
   1988 – 1991 (bound)
Account Records (continued)
   June 1965 – June 1969 Community Concerts
   June 1983 – 1993
   Folder of Miscellaneous Unbound Treasurers’ Reports
Amateur Musical Club *For Deposit Only Stamp*