

**McLean County Museum of History**

**May Christian Collection**

Processed by  
Estefani Lopez, Museum Library intern  
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**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1877-1920
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also Christian, Annie May – 2019 Evergreen Cemetery Walk file

## Brief History

Annie May Christian (she went by May for most of her life) was born in Decatur, Illinois, in 1866 to Matthew and Elizabeth (Mitchell) Christian. An excellent student—both academically and musically—Christian demonstrated her talent at an early age. She graduated from Bloomington High School in 1883, as the class salutatorian. She was a member of the Amateur Musical Club—an organization that became her true passion and life’s work. One of her more notable contributions was organizing the annual Charity Day Concert in 1902, the success of which led to her appointment as chairperson of the program committee. She then served as Vice President of the club from 1905 to 1910, and President from 1910 to 1923. While she served as President, the club grew in size and influence, earning a reputation for welcoming to Bloomington visiting national and international classical musicians and orchestras. May Christian never married, having made personal declarations that she was complete without a husband. She lived in Bloomington until her death in 1941.

## Scope

The collection includes May Christian’s scrapbook essay, “I Often Meditate,” sheet music, music pamphlets, summary reviews of the Minneapolis Orchestra in Chicago, and papers she wrote—“*Music in America*” and “*Scandinavian Music Preamble*.”

## Box and Folder Inventory

### Folder 1: General Information

- 1.1 Obituary, *Pantagraph*, 14 April 1941.

### Folder 2: I Often Meditate

- 2.1 “*I Often Meditate*,” scrapbook essay by May Christian. No date, 8pp. Includes photos / artwork clipped from various publications.

### Folder 3: Music in America

- 3.1 “*Music in America*,” paper by May Christian. No date, 35 pp. Newspaper clippings on pages 16, 19, 21, & 26

### Folder 4: Scandinavian Music Preamble

- 4.1 “*Scandinavian Music Preamble*,” paper by May Christian. No date, 18 pp. Newspaper clippings found on pages 3, 5, 13, 14, & 16.

### Folder 5: Sheet Music Workbook

- 5.1 May Christians sheet music workbook.

### Folder 6: Music Publications / Sheet Music

- 6.1 “*New Song Era*” published by John Church & Co., and Root & Sons Music Co. edited by Frederic W. Root. Revised by Geo F. Root. A book of Instruction and Music. Published in 1877, 192 pp.
- 6.2 Sheet music by Shapiro, Bernstein & Co. Inc. Annotated. 4pp.9
- 6.3 The English Madrigal School, The Madrigals of Thomas Morley, Orlando Gibbons, John Wilbye, & John Farmer. A list of Madrigals for mixed voices, as edited by Edmund H. Fellowes, mailed upon request. No date.
- 6.4 A McCormack Success, “The Bitterness of Love.” John McCormack’s New York Recital (Carnegie Hall). Published in 1916, 2pp.
- 6.5 “Peter Gynt Suite No.1.’ Arranged for Ladies’ Voices by Frederick H. Martens and Alfred J. Silver. Published in 1915, 3pp.

**Folder 7: Letter from J. Fischer & Bro.**

- 7.1 Letter from J. Fischer & Bro to the secretary of Amateur Musical Club. Written on June 1, 1916. Letter is referencing a request made by Amateur Music Club for a copy of Dr. Silver’s arrangement of “Peter Gynt Suite 1”.
- 7.2 Envelope. Sent from New York, Post Office, June 2, 1916.

**Folder 8: Minneapolis Orchestra debut in Chicago**

- 8.1 “Every Paper Gives High Praise to Director Oberhoffer & Orchestra.” Summary of reviews from newspaper articles. No date. 1p.
- 8.2 “Musical Press Vies with Daily Papers in Praise of Work of Remarkable.” Summary of reviews from newspaper articles. No date, 1p.

**Folder 9: Announcement**

- 9.1 College Alumni Club announcement, undated, regarding appearance of Grace Wagner at the Coliseum, signed May Christian, handwritten, on reverse of promotional flier for Irish tenor Allen McQuhae. Distributed October 10, 1920, 1p.