Guide to the University of Chicago Band Records 1898-1969
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Descriptive Summary

Identifier
ICU.SPCL.UOFCBAND

Title
University of Chicago. Band. Records

Date
1898-1969

Size
2.5 linear feet (2 boxes)

Repository
Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract
The University of Chicago band performed for university athletic functions and in indoor concerts. The records contain correspondence, drill charts and routines, clippings, and administrative records dating from 1898 to 1969, with the bulk of the material from 1927 to 1942.

Information on Use

Access
The collection is open for research.

Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: University of Chicago. Band. Records [Box #, Folder #], Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library.

Historical Note
The University of Chicago band started in 1898 as the University of Chicago Military Band. It received the hearty support of President William Rainey Harper, himself a cornet player in the band. The first director was physics professor Glenn Moody Hobbs, and the band's first performance was in concert in Kent Hall on December 16, 1898. The band operated initially under the auspices of the athletics department, and members (all men) were paid a modest amount for their service. They performed in uniforms of maroon sweaters, white shirts with maroon ties, white wool pants, and, in inclement weather, overcoats and sailor caps.

In 1922 C. D. Greenleaf, university and band alumnus and president of the Conn musical instrument company, donated 100 instruments to the band. This donation included Big Bertha, the 8 ½-foot bass drum that became a sort of band mascot. Photocopies of articles and photographs of Big Bertha remain in the University's General Archival File.
In the late 1920s efforts picked up to make the band a year-round organization, offering concerts outside of football season. In 1935, administrative and financial oversight and support of the band was transferred from the athletic department to the music department. That same year, accomplished bandleader and music educator Harold Bachman was hired as director. As reflected in some of his correspondence, he was also a consultant to the Educational Music Bureau, a Chicago organization devoted to school music. Despite Bachman's leadership, advocacy, and reputation, the band occasionally had a difficult time justifying its musical bona fides (and therefore its existence) to the department. Bachman’s tenure at the university ended in 1942 when he was called to active duty in WWII.

The history of the band is spotty from WWII onwards. After Bachman's departure, the band program largely died out, re-emerging from time to time as a pep band, performing in the stands at athletic events but not performing field shows. The concert band gave occasional performances as well, before the creation of the University Wind Ensemble.

Big Bertha was sold to a Texas oilman in 1955, who had her refurbished. She is now in the possession of the University of Texas Longhorn Band.

**Scope Note**

The collection is divided into four series:

Series 1, General Records, contains correspondence and memos, financial and insurance records, member lists, and other administrative records and ephemera, arranged chronologically.

Series 2, Concerts, contains programs, correspondence, publicity, and other material related to concert performances, arranged chronologically.

Series 3, Marching Band, contains records of football games and other marching band performances – correspondence, routines, charts, formations, etc. – as well as songs and cheers, also arranged chronologically.

Series 4, Oversize, largely contains newspapers and clippings, many of them brittle and crumbling, and oversize inventory and field formation charts. The charts come first, followed by clippings and then newspapers in alphabetical order by title (all from 1937).

**Related Resources**

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html
University of Chicago. General Archival File

Music Relating to the University of Chicago. Records

Stagg, Amos Alonzo. Papers

A collection of Harold Bachman’s papers is held by the University of Florida, and records related to his tenure at the University of Chicago band can be found there. http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/archome/MS39.htm

Subject Headings

- University of Chicago
- University of Chicago. Department of Music
- Marching bands

INVENTORY

Series I: General Records

Box 1
Folder 1
   Article in Support of Band, 1898

Box 1
Folder 2
   Payroll and Voucher Lists, 1923-1927

Box 1
Folder 3
   Insurance – Correspondence and Inventories, 1925-1939

Box 1
Folder 4
   Other Inventories and Lending Records, 1926-1942, undated

Box 1
Folder 5
   Correspondence, 1927-1928

Box 1
Folder 6
   Budget, 1928

Box 1
Folder 7
   Memos to Members and Prospective Members, 1936-1941

Box 1
Folder 8
   Memoranda and Annual Reports, 1936-1942

Box 1
Folder 9
Tower Topics Newsletters, 1937-1940

Box 1
Folder 10
  Menus, 1938

Box 1
Folder 11
  Member Lists, 1941, undated

Box 1
Folder 12
  Correspondence, 1941-1942

Box 1
Folder 13
  Newsletters, 1941-1942, undated

Box 1
Folder 14
  Budget Proposal, 1968

Box 1
Folder 15
  Constitution and Amendment, undated

Box 1
Folder 16
  Draft of Memo or Newsletter, undated

Series II: Concerts

Box 1
Folder 17
  Concert Publicity – Tower Topics, 1936-1940

Box 1
Folder 18
  Fortieth Anniversary Concert – Publicity and Mailing Lists, 1938

Box 1
Folder 19
  Fortieth Anniversary Concert – Correspondence and Programs, 1938

Box 1
Folder 20
  Miscellaneous Playing Engagements – Correspondence, 1938-1940

Box 1
Folder 21
  Annual Concerts – Announcements, Programs, Correspondence, 1939-1957

Box 1
Folder 22
  Clark High School Concert – Correspondence, Publicity, Program, 1940

Box 1
Folder 23
  Concert Publicity – Mailing Lists, 1940

Box 1
Folder 24
  Concert Publicity – Clippings, 1940, undated
Box 1
Folder 25
  Correspondence – Concert Music, 1941
Box 1
Folder 26
  Fiftieth Anniversary Concert – Correspondence, Program, 1941
Box 1
Folder 27
  Wheaton Concert – Correspondence, Personnel Lists, Receipt, 1941-1942, undated
Box 1
Folder 28
  Concert Fliers, 1955
Box 1
Folder 29
  Concert Program, 1969
Box 1
Folder 30
  Annual Concerts – Programs, Announcement, undated

Series III: Marching Band

Box 1
Folder 31
  University Playing Engagements – Correspondence, 1927-1928
Box 1
Folder 32
  Ohio State Games – Correspondence, Charts, 1925, 1932
Box 1
Folder 33
  Jubilee Parade – Clipping, circa 1934
Box 1
Folder 34
  Tower Topics – Ohio State Game, 1935
Box 1
Folder 35
  Correspondence – Flag Formation, 1936
Box 1
Folder 36
  University of Illinois Game – Routine and Charts, 1936
Box 1
Folder 37
  Beloit Game – Charts, 1937
Box 1
Folder 38
  Princeton Game – Charts, 1937
Box 1
Folder 39
   University of Michigan Game – Charts, 1937
Box 1
Folder 40
   Ohio State Game – Instructions, Memo, 1937
Box 1
Folder 41
   Ohio State Game – Routines, Charts, 1938
Box 1
Folder 42
   Harvard Game/All-Star Twirling Club – Correspondence, Instructions, Charts, Clipping – 1938-1939
Box 1
Folder 43
   Ohio State Game – Charts, Instructions, Correspondence, 1939
Box 1
Folder 44
   University of Michigan Game – Correspondence, Instructions, Charts, 1939
Box 1
Folder 45
   University of Illinois Game – Correspondence, Charts, Routine, 1939
Box 1
Folder 46
   Oberlin Game – Correspondence, Plans, Charts, 1939
Box 1
Folder 47
   Vanderbilt Game – Routine with Chart, undated
Box 1
Folder 48
   Various Football Games – Routines, and Charts, undated
Box 1
Folder 49
   Songs and Partial Drill Routine, undated
Box 1
Folder 50
   Marching Band – Charts, undated
Box 1
Folder 51
   Description of Big Bertha, undated

Series IV: Oversize
Box 2
Folder 1
   Check, 1927
Folder 2
Marching Band – Charts, undated
Box 2
Folder 3
Clippings, 1937-1940
Box 2
Folder 4
Chicago Daily News – Concert Announcement, 1937
Box 2
Folder 5
Chicago Herald and Examiner – Concert Announcements, 1937
Box 2
Folder 6
Chicago Sunday Tribune – Concert Announcement, 1937
Box 2
Folder 7
Hyde Park Weekly – Concert Announcement, 1937
Box 2
Folder 8
Oakland-Kenwood Outlook – Concert Announcement, 1937
Box 2
Folder 9
Southeast Economist – Concert Announcement, 1937
Box 2
Folder 10
South Shore Newscaster – Concert Announcement, 1937
Box 2
Folder 11
Woodlawn Booster – Concert Announcement, 1937