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THE HISTORY OF MUSIC AT
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY 1863-1950

by

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I would like to thank Dr. James Carey for the use of the manuscript of his since published book Kansas State University, The Quest for Identity. Dr. Carey's interest in the history of the University influenced my research of the history of music at Kansas State. He assisted me by pointing out sources I could use to gather my research material. One very helpful source was the file made up by Charles Correll, who was University Historian from 1950 to 1963. Dr. Correll classified the history of the College under specific departments and faculty, obtaining his information from Manhattan newspapers, school newspapers, faculty records, and catalogues. This information was a major source for specific events that took place at Kansas State.

I would also like to thank Dr. Chappell White, my major professor, for his interest and encouragement. Dr. Mary Ellen Sutton, Hanley Jackson and Dr. Robert Steinbauer were the other members of my committee who were also helpful and encouraging. Their interest made the task of writing the paper much easier.

Among the most interesting aspects of my research were three interviews I had this past fall. Marion Pelton, who was on the music faculty from 1928 to 1972, taught piano and organ. She is now retired and living in Manhattan. Her main interest is no longer music but photography. Clarice Painter, who was on the music faculty from 1924 to 1969, also taught

piano. She makes a special effort to keep up with faculty she knew and taught with through correspondence. Dorothy Dale was a music major at Kansas State from 1925 to 1930. She is retired and living in Hutchinson, Kansas. She taught in the Hutchinson Public School system after receiving her degree at Kansas State. I would like to thank these women for their very helpful comments and their interest.

INTRODUCTION

The Morrill Act, or the Land-Grant College Act as it was called, became law with President Lincoln's signature on July 2, 1862.¹ The Blue Mont Central College, in Manhattan, Kansas, donated one-hundred acres of land and a three-story building to the state of Kansas in hopes that the first land-grant college would be located there. The offer was enough incentive for the legislature of Kansas to establish Kansas State Agricultural College, hereafter referred to as Kansas State, at this location. The Reverend Joseph Denison was elected President of Kansas State by the Board of Regents July 23, 1863.² Kansas State officially opened September 2, 1863 with fifty-two students enrolled.³

The Morrill Act was for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanical arts. It was to support colleges in which the main object was to teach subjects that were related to agriculture and mechanics. Science, classic studies, and military tactics were also to be taught. Music was not considered a profession in which one could gain a livelihood but was taught

¹James C. Carey, Kansas State University, The Quest for Identity, manuscript, Chapter 2, p. 6. This manuscript has since been published by The Regents Press of Kansas in Topeka, Kansas, 1977.

²Julius T. Willard, History of Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science, (Manhattan, Kansas: Kansas State College Press, 1940), p. 18.

³Willard, p. 24.

in the early years of Kansas State and also performed,
usually in conjunction with calisthenics.

CHAPTER ONE

1863 - 1879

Mrs. Eliza C. Beckwith was one of four on the faculty when Kansas State opened its doors in 1863. She was the teacher of music on the melodeon and piano. The 1863-64 catalogue contained the following:

Instrumental Music is taught; also Vocal. The institution is furnished with a fine Piano Forte and a Melodeon.⁴

Concerning cost, the catalogue stated, "In the Musical Department \$8.00 for the Melodeon and \$10.00 for the piano. Expenses always in advance."⁵

On December 2, 1863, the Regents elected J. Everts Platt to be in charge of the preparatory department and also professor of vocal music. He began his work September 1, 1864.⁶

C. Hubschman became professor of instrumental music, December 15, 1864, following Mrs. Beckwith.⁷ It was also at this time that the Prudential Committee voted "that one dollar per term be charged for the use of the melodeon and two dollars per term for use of the piano, in addition to tuition on each."⁸

⁴1863-64 catalogue, p. 21.

⁵1863-64 catalogue, p. 18.

⁶Willard, p. 19.

⁷Willard, p. 23.

⁸Prudential Committee Records, December 17, 1864, p. 7.

In that same committee report the Prudential Committee voted that they have full power in the employment of music teachers. They exercised their power by hiring Miss Emily M. Campbell as teacher of instrumental music presumably to replace Mr. Hubschman in 1865. Then again in the very next year Mrs. Laura C. Lee, the wife of a faculty member, was employed as instrumental music instructor. Mrs. Lee resigned in December, 1867, and Miss Campbell returned to take charge of instrumental music.⁹

The 1866-67 catalogue notes that year as the first year diplomas were given to those who completed the full course in vocal and instrumental music.¹⁰ It is difficult to say how many received these diplomas, but it is interesting that only fifteen students graduated from Kansas State from its opening in 1863 until 1873.¹¹ The reason for this was that a large majority of the students were enrolled in the preparatory department rather than in college classes. The 1886 fall term "closed with an exhibition of vocal music and calisthenics."¹² It became tradition for the music groups of the college to perform at the close of each term in conjunction with calisthenics. It is obvious that the main purpose of music, at the beginning, was practical and not art for art's sake.

The first mention of an actual piece being performed by the music students at Kansas State was in the Manhattan Standard,

⁹Willard, p. 23.

¹⁰1866-67 catalogue, p. 21.

¹¹Carey, Chapter 2, p. 12.

¹²Faculty Records, December 12, 1866, p. 5.

the Manhattan weekly newspaper, January 2, 1869.

The cantata of Esther prepared under the direction of Prof. W. S. Mills, an out-of-town gentleman, was presented Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. The concert was a grand one. The Musical talent of Manhattan can hardly be equalled elsewhere.

At this time the instrumental music teacher's salary was paid with the fees collected from the tuition required of those enrolled in music classes. In the Eighth Annual Report, 1870, (p. 5), the suggestion was made that instruction in instrumental music should be offered at less cost and that this could be done by paying the teacher a salary in part as other teachers were paid. Fees were abolished for one term, in the spring and fall of 1872, but were reinstated for the winter term in 1872-73. Fees for instrumental music were not permanently abolished and the music faculty given a salary until 1893. Fees for vocal instruction were abolished in 1885 and Professor W. L. Hofer, who was teaching vocal music at that time, was given \$500 a year.¹³

Apparently the first musician to leave a lasting mark at the University was Mrs. Hattie V. Werden who held the position as instructor of instrumental music from 1869 until 1877. All sources indicate that she was a very talented musician and was very interested in promoting the growth of music at Kansas State.

The progress of the instrumental music program under Mrs. Werden was given quite a lot of publicity. The Manhattan Standard, April 3, 1869 had this to say:

¹³Willard, p. 81.

We are glad to learn that Mrs. Hattie V. Werden, music preceptress at the college, will also commence again to give instructions upon the piano forte, melodeon or guitar to any who may wish her services in the city.

Four months later this critique appeared in the Manhattan Standard on July 31, 1869.

The Sunday School concert last Sunday was very good indeed. The children seemed to take new interest in the exercises as well as several young ladies and gentlemen. We cannot but think that these concerts are increasing under the direction of the new corps of officers. Mrs. Werden evidently has great skill in drilling the children in singing and some of them have beautiful voices.

In the Ninth Annual Report, 1871, (p. 42), Mrs. Werden reports:

I have had under my charge during the term 35 pupils, namely, 20 piano, 11 organ and 4 guitar scholars. These have been divided into eleven classes of from one to three scholars each, also one class styled "The Teachers' Class," the pupils of this class being the assistant teachers, the object of which being to give them special instruction and drill in the art of teaching.

Mrs. Werden proposed to the Board of Regents in 1871 a graded course of music. It was adopted the very next day.¹⁴ For the summer vacation, during 1872, Mrs. Werden went east to visit the New England Conservatory of Music for the purpose of studying methods to use in the graded course of music. In the Tenth Annual Report, 1872, (p. 78-79), Mrs. Werden reported teaching eighty-six different pupils in instrumental music. The enrollment for the three terms totaled 141 in thirty-two classes. Piano, organ, and guitar were taught in classes averaging one to six persons. She said:

I find that my system of class teaching is essentially the same as that which is giving the best satisfaction

¹⁴Board Minutes A, July 7, 1871, p. 79.

and proving the most successful in the East.

The 1871-72 catalogue, (p. 23), had this to say about Mrs. Werden's graded system.

A graded system of instrumental music (organ, piano, melodeon, guitar) has been adopted in accordance with the most approved methods by which pupils are taught in classes and pass regular examinations as in other studies.

Music at Kansas State was no longer only at the preparatory level. Mrs. Hattie V. Werden had made music more important by promoting good music through public performances, providing a solid music education by the graded system, and making numerous requests for better facilities. During the school year 1871-72, two new instruments, an organ and a Chickering¹⁵ piano, were added to the department.¹⁶

Professor Platt had been teaching vocal music since he was hired in 1863 and remained with the College until 1883. When Professor Platt left, W. L. Hofer was asked to add vocal music to his teaching load.

During President Denison's term, Kansas State received much criticism for not fulfilling its purpose as a land-grant college. It seems subjects such as Greek and Latin and philosophy were considered unnecessary in learning how to farm. The Regents along with other Kansans felt there was too much emphasis on the classical or liberal courses in relation to

¹⁵Chickering, the oldest American firm of piano manufacturers, was founded by Jonas Chickering in 1823. They were pioneers in the use of the iron frame for grand pianos.

¹⁶Nationalist, December 19, 1873.

practical or applied training.

In 1873 the legislature passed a law reorganizing the Board of Regents. The new Board for Kansas State called for the resignation of all the members of the faculty, June 27, 1873. All members were rehired except President Denison.¹⁷ This was a clever way of changing the administration, and it was not the only time it was to occur.

President John A. Anderson began his term September 1, 1873.¹⁸ What had been a college offering a mixture of classical and practical courses became a college which President Anderson proposed:

...would graduate capable farmers and housewives, rather than agricultural experts, experimenters, professors and editors. Accordingly, the course work contains no Latin or Greek rubbish, no useless "abstract" mathematics, and no fancy "ologies" or "osophies."¹⁹

The 1873-74 catalogue further exemplified Anderson's views by stating the following concerning vocal music.

Vocal Music was taught both as a science and an art. It was not accepted as an industrial required by the schedule of studies, but heartily recommended to all students for its intrinsic worth and its valuable drill in vocalization. It was not presented as one of those industrials by which a livelihood was to be earned.

The biennial catalogue, 1875-77, gave a list of departments offered by Kansas State. Men could choose from the industrials and women could enroll in "dressmaking, printing, telegraphy, scroll sawing, carving, engraving, photography,

¹⁷Willard, p. 29.

¹⁸Willard, p. 35.

¹⁹Carey, Chapter 3, p. 14-c.

and instrumental music."²⁰

Mrs. Werden wanted to make sure music did not die a slow death under the administration of President Anderson. In the Twelfth Annual Report, 1874, she reported on the number of students in her classes and concluded with "a few thoughts upon this branch of education." She emphasized the value of a knowledge of music and the difficulty of its attainment. The music students showed their interest in the subject with several performances. The 1874-75 school year produced the cantatas Flower Queen, We will Crown our Queen of Spring, and Belshazzar. Sources in the early years usually failed to give the composers of the works which were performed.

In May of 1877, Mrs. Werden married Mr. I. K. Perry, and Miss Carrie Steele was employed as her successor for the year 1877-78.²¹ Miss Steele resigned at the end of the school year because of insufficient remuneration even though she was voted \$50 extra compensation for services as music teacher in December of 1877.²² W. L. Hofer was chosen to succeed her and remained with the College until 1886 in the capacity of instrumental music instructor and later vocal instructor.

One important contribution of the Anderson administration was the Industrialist, the newspaper of the College, which first appeared April 24, 1875.²³ It covered facts about

²⁰Willard, p. 41.

²¹Willard, p. 52.

²²Board Minutes A, December 19, 1877, p. 255.

²³Willard, p. 530.

Kansas State and activities of the faculty and student body and was printed in various forms until May, 1955. Professors Platt and Hofer both contributed articles to the Industrialist in the paper's early years. Professor Platt furnished an editorial entitled "Music and Mental Culture" on March 27, 1880, and an article on "The Bismarck Jubilee" on June 4, 1881. Professor Hofer contributed an editorial in the October 11, 1879, issue entitled "Hints on Piano Playing." This appeared during his first year on the faculty.

President Anderson resigned when he was elected to the United States House of Representatives. If he were President today, his ideas on education would probably be much different. He was a graduate of a classical school, and it was assumed he knew what he was doing when he wanted to make Kansas State a trade school where the object was to teach young people skill in hand and machine work on the farm or shops and in the household. He believed that was the purpose of a land-grant college and any subjects outside that purpose could be omitted.

It remained for later Presidents to develop a college which would have a balanced amount of agricultural and mechanical arts along with science, culture, and industrial arts.

The reason music survived the Anderson administration was simply that it was a subject for women. President Anderson saw no harm in women taking music and felt it would make them better persons in the home.

CHAPTER TWO

1879 - 1918

George T. Fairchild assumed the duties as President of Kansas State on December 1, 1879.²⁴ Professors Platt and Hofer had full charge of the Music Department when President Fairchild became head administrator. With the duties of vocal instruction added to Professor Hofer's teaching load when Professor Platt resigned, it is no wonder that Hofer resigned at the beginning of the fall term, 1886, because of insufficient strength. Although Mrs. Hofer is not mentioned as being a faculty member, the following was stated in the Industrialist concerning her talent.

We merely state a fact, but one to which several hundred persons herabout will make affidavit, when we say that the solo, "Sing Sweet Bird," as rendered by Mrs. Hofer at the commencement exercises, was one of the most delightful musical performances that a Manhattan audience has ever been favored with.²⁵

During the Fairchild administration the music students requested more interior organization for their performing groups and names attached to distinguish the groups. The Choral Union was a vocal organization which existed in Manhattan for many years. It consisted not only of Kansas State students, but Manhattan music lovers as well. In 1879 the

²⁴Carey, Chapter 3, p. 15.

²⁵Industrialist, June 12, 1880.

Manhattan Cornet Band was reorganized and \$245 was received to buy new instruments for the group. This band was probably the same type of band the College had from its beginning only more highly organized.²⁶ The Manhattan String Band was the beginning of the College Orchestra. When the band performed at commencement exercises in 1880, it had eleven members.²⁷ Twice during President Fairchild's term, petitions were presented to the faculty to organize groups. The Faculty Records from October 16, 1882, (p. 207) states:

A petition was presented from Professors Hofer, Walters, and Popenoe and students Towery, Smith, Higinbotham, Embry, and Miss Points, to be allowed to form a college orchestra for the present year and to be allowed the use of a room for practice.

By 1889 the College Orchestra had fourteen pieces.

The new orchestra has attracted considerable attention because of its size and the good music furnished. It is made up of two first violins, one second violin, first and second cornet, first and second flute, piccolo, viola, e-flat alto [sic], b-flat trombone, violincello [sic], double bass, and piano.²⁸

Faculty Records B, from September 27, 1886, (p. 38), said the following:

President read a petition for permission to organize a college brass band, signed by L. B. Parker, M. A. Carlton, and others. After discussion it was moved by Prof. Kellerman that the request be granted under such restrictions as the faculty may impose. Carried.

A glee club was formally proposed in 1888 with a series of rules on organization and government.²⁹

²⁶ Industrialist, August 23, 1879.

²⁷ Industrialist, June 5, 1880.

²⁸ Faculty Records B, February 6, 1888, p. 12.

²⁹ Industrialist, October 12, 1889.

President Fairchild's administration also brought about the practice of inviting performers outside the community to give concerts and recitals in Manhattan, a practice that continues to thrive at Kansas State today (1977). The first report of such a group in Manhattan was in the February 22, 1879, issue of the Industrialist when the "renowned Hutchinson family" was scheduled to give a concert at the Presbyterian Church.

They have traveled in Europe and American for over thirty-six years and have given more than eleven thousand concerts.

On March 1, 1884 the Industrialist contained the following advertisement.

Donovan's Tennesseans, a colored troop, were billed for a concert at the Colisseum under the auspices of the Congregational Church for the evening of Thursday, March 6.

When W. L. Hofer resigned in 1886, Professor A. B. Brown was chosen to head the Music Department. The Industrialist gave the following information about Mr. Brown.

Prof. A. B. Brown, of Springfield, Missouri, takes up the department of music after an experience of twenty years in similar work. He has an excellent reputation for vocal training and capacity as leader of orchestra, band, or choir, as well as for general ability in instrumental teaching.³⁰

Under the leadership of Professor Brown the public heard Bohemian Girl³¹ presented by the Choral Union and the cantata Jephtha and His Daughter.³²

³⁰Industrialist, August 21, 1886.

³¹Industrialist, May 26, 1888.

³²Industrialist, April 5, 1890.

Professor Brown had won the admiration of Kansas State and Manhattan audiences with these productions. He was given the largest salary up to that time of \$1,200 per year. This was done in October, 1893, when fees for instrumental music were abolished.³³ The abolition of fees resulted in the largest music classes in the thirty year history of the College.

In the vocal classes there are 109 students, and it is hardly necessary to add that Prof. Brown is a busy man.³⁴

Professor Brown was also busy making the music program at Kansas State conform to certain regulations. The Faculty Records C, of October 30, 1893, (p. 105-6), reported the following:

Special committee on plan for taking music under changed conditions reported as follows: 1. Music shall be taken as an industrial by ladies only after required industrials of the first year and after passing an examination equivalent to one term in vocal music; 2. Music to be assigned as an extra only when the student does well in course; 3. Students shall not change industrials at mid-term, but may take music as an extra under the usual restriction any time; 4. Class organization shall be wholly under the control of the professor in charge; 5. Students in the music department shall be subject to the call of the professor for music connected with college exercises; 6. Students shall be members of the orchestra or band through connection with the music department by assignment; 7. That those regulations shall go into effect November 1st next. Adopted.

On April 6, 1897, again the entire faculty was asked to resign by the Board of Regents. Some were asked to return to their positions and others resigned permanently. President

³³Willard, p. 81.

³⁴Industrialist, February 24, 1894.

Fairchild resigned permanently, giving the Board of Regents the opportunity to make Thomas E. Will President.

President Will served the shortest term of any President at Kansas State--July 1, 1897 to June 30, 1899.³⁵ Dr. Carey made an interesting observation about that short term.

Students entering K-State in 1896 received their course assignments directly from the hand of President Fairchild, studied their second and third years under the administration of President Thomas E. Will, and were handed their diplomas by President Ernest R. Nichols.³⁶

Alexander B. Brown was re-employed by President Will and remained for five years past Will's term. Near the end of President Will's administration, the Industrialist had the following report on the progress of the Music Department.

The Music department, for example, taught last fall term 276 young pupils in vocal music, 20 young men in the B band, 28 young men in the A band, 23 pupils in the orchestra, 57 on the piano, 8 on the organ, 53 on the violin, 1 on the viola, 1 on the cello, 1 on the double bass, 13 on the mandolin, 24 on the guitar, and 3 on the banjo--a total of 487. This term the department is even more crowded. Oh! for more room!³⁷

A new Board of Regents met May 11, 1899. It was a very conservative group and felt the administration at Kansas State was too liberal. At this meeting they asked for the removal of President Will and four other faculty members.³⁸

The administration of Ernest R. Nichols began on July 1,

³⁵Willard, p. 105.

³⁶Carey, Chapter 4, p. 1-a.

³⁷Industrialist, March, 1899, p. 192.

³⁸Willard, p. 125.

1899.³⁹ It was during President Nichols's administration that the College Auditorium was erected.

During the early years of Kansas State the music classes and performances were located the same places other classes were, which was anywhere that wasn't being occupied at that particular time. The first mention of an actual performance location on campus was in the Manhattan Beacon, June 6, 1872, where complimentary notice appeared of a parlor concert given by Mrs. Werden in "Blue Mont Hall." This would have been the first building on campus--the one given to the state by Blue Mont College. The next mention of space, or lack of it, was in the Eleventh Annual Report, 1873, (p. 5).

The present buildings are wholly inadequate. Every room is crowded and classes in telegraphy, printing, sewing and instrumental music are compelled to recite in the chapel.

There was no chapel building on campus at this time. The first so called chapel was in Anderson Hall and building did not begin on Anderson until 1879.⁴⁰ The above reference to the chapel was probably the same "Blue Mont Hall" mentioned earlier. In the 1876 reference was made to music rooms which were being made more comfortable. These rooms presumably were in the house that the Board Minutes made reference to in 1873.

³⁹Willard, p. 129.

⁴⁰Charles C. Howes, editor, Kansas State University, A Pictorial History 1863-1963, (Manhattan, Kansas; Kansas State University Press, 1863), p. 26.

The board voted to rent the house of General Davidson to be used by the classes in music.⁴¹

In 1881 there were four buildings on campus in addition to Anderson Hall, which was still under construction. The Music Department was evidently assigned part of one of those buildings as mentioned in the Industrialist, May 28, 1881.

That awful medley of noises--the joint or special product of the piano and viol minor and major--which escapes from the musical end of the Mechanical Building, more or less, at all hours of the night and day, Sundays only excepted.

After the chapel in Anderson Hall was completed music classes were held there and all music groups rehearsed on the stage in the chapel. The Faculty Records C, January 19, 1887, (p. 525) stated the following:

At the request of Professor Brown it was agreed that the gallery doors and the south door shall be locked during the forenoon to prevent interference with music classes.

The space where the chapel was located in Anderson Hall is now occupied by the Office of Admissions and Records (1977).⁴² This same room is referred to as Recreation center in the 1930s and 1940s.

The College Auditorium was erected in 1904 and was used to house most of the music classes, rehearsals, and performances. It served the Music Department and the University well in the first half of the century, but it became increasingly inadequate for modern needs. By the time the

⁴¹Board Minutes A, July 30, 1873, p. 184.

⁴²Clarice Painter, interview held in Manhattan, Kansas, October 10, 1977.

Auditorium was more than fifty years old, it had become the subject of controversy. In the 1960s it was referred to as the "Old Auditorium," and many people thought the facility was disgraceful.

World famous classical guitarist, Andrei Segovia, emphasized the building's inadequacies when he refused to begin a concert because of the distractions of swinging doors and cold temperature. While windows rattled and floors creaked, he stood up and in halting English but in a forceful manner said, "Shut the door!"⁴³

Student organizations and faculty members launched an attack on the old Auditorium building and took up an active campaign for new facilities. Many references were made to the "old barn" or "let's burn the barn." This encouraged the notion that if it was destroyed that would in some way help the College get rid of an eyesore. On January 15, 1965, an arsonist or arsonists fired the old Auditorium. In a short time it was completely gutted along with the loss of valuable musical compositions and instruments. Other equipment belonging to the departments of art and drama were also destroyed.⁴⁴ This was only a small act in the tumult of the 1960s and early 1970s that spread across most U.S. campuses.

The Music Department then made its home in Nichols Gymnasium which was completed in 1911.⁴⁵ It provided some of the space so desperately needed, but the Music Department has always been in need of more room. The department had no

⁴³Carey, Chapter 10, p. 2-b.

⁴⁴Carey, Chapter 10, p. 3.

⁴⁵Willard, p. 144.

more than recovered from the old Auditorium fire when, close to midnight on December 13, 1968, another act of arson gutted Nichols Gymnasium and destroyed its valuable contents.⁴⁶ A new Auditorium was completed in 1970 which gave the Music Department hope for the future. By 1975 the department was all under one roof in facilities consisting of studios, practice rooms, rehearsal halls, and class rooms adjacent to the new Auditorium and only a few steps from the All Faiths Chapel Auditorium (completed in 1955).⁴⁷

On September 1, 1904, Professor Olaf Valley succeeded Professor A. B. Brown as head of the Department of Music, and continued in that position until June 30, 1915.⁴⁸ He was assisted in the department by Mr. R. Harry Brown, who was in charge of the military band--and a good band it must have been.

The band concert last Monday night, given by Brown's Military Band, was by far the finest ever given here. The opera-house was crowded. The organization is now at its best and played the program in a manner equalled only by professionals. The program was made up of standard and popular numbers and judging from the frequent and hearty applause, certainly pleased the large audience.⁴⁹

Another effort of Mr. Brown along with Professor Valley was the annual concert in 1906.

⁴⁶Carey, Chapter 10, p. 8.

⁴⁷Howes, p. 160.

⁴⁸Willard, p. 136.

⁴⁹Industrialist, May 6, 1905, p. 510.

Professors Valley and Brown are busy with preparations for the second annual concert of the Musical Department of the College, which will be given March 8. The principal part of the concert will be by the Choral Union, a mixed chorus of 175 voices. They will be assisted by the violinist, Frank Winter, of Chicago, Olaf Valley, basso, professor of music in the College, and by several student soloists. The chorus will sing "The Messiah," "Creation," and "Faust."⁵⁰

During the Nichols's administration the performing groups in the Music Department began requesting permission to go out of town to give concerts.

The College band went to Wakefield last Tuesday to give a concert. The band numbers about 35 members and is in first class trim. Assistant Professor R. Harry Brown, who directs the band, says that he receives frequent invitations to give concerts.⁵¹

Those requests sometimes took some convincing, according to the Faculty Records D, March 7, 1906, (p. 381).

A request that the glee club and girls' quartet be allowed to go to Wakefield was not granted.

Three days later:

Professor Valley made a statement in regard to the glee club's request to go to Wakefield and the club was allowed to go.⁵²

That request may have been denied first because of insufficient chaperonage. The glee club solved this according to the Industrialist.

The College Glee Club, accompanied by Professor Valley, Miss Lindskog, Miss Gertrude Hilliard, and Miss Gertrude Eakin, went to Wakefield last Monday to give a concert. They report a good time and a

⁵⁰Industrialist, January 22, 1906, p. 268.

⁵¹Industrialist, March 5, 1906, p. 363.

⁵²Faculty Records D, March 10, 1906, p. 381.

fair audience.⁵³

Besides surrounding towns, Kansas City became the location of a College Band concert.

The College Band, numbering about thirty members under the leadership of Prof. Harry Brown, went to Kansas City Tuesday morning to toot for the Priests of Pallas. They returned Wednesday night covered with glory and dust.⁵⁴

In the spring of 1906 the Music Department commenced giving monthly recitals.

The Music Department will start giving its monthly recitals about the first week in April. Each recital will contain from ten to twelve numbers, consisting of piano and vocal solos and instrumental pieces. They will be given at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium, and will be open to the public.⁵⁵

The Music Department at Kansas State still presents monthly recitals by music students (1977).

The Choral Union, a long standing group, gave its first concert under the direction of Professor Valley in 1905. The Industrialist gave this review.

The First Annual Concert of the Choral Union of the Kansas State Agricultural College was given in the Auditorium on Thursday night, March 16, and was a grand success, notwithstanding bad weather and almost impassable roads. The program was rendered as published in the Industrialist two weeks ago. The choruses were sung by one hundred twenty-four students under the direction of Prof. Olaf Valley, producing a powerful and beautifully blended musical effect.⁵⁶

The second and third annual concerts were given in March of the next two years, but no source makes mention of selections

⁵³Industrialist, March 17, 1906, p. 397.

⁵⁴Industrialist, March 24, 1906, p. 413.

⁵⁵Industrialist, October 6, 1906, p. 29.

⁵⁶Industrialist, March 18, 1905, p. 399.

they sang. The fourth annual concert, held March 19, 1908, had the Choral Union singing "Lohengrin's 'The King's Prayer'" and the cantata The Swan and the Skylark.⁵⁷ The fifth annual concert was reviewed by the Student's Herald, May 19, 1909, and gave the following comments.

The fifth annual concert of the Choral Union last Monday night was a decided success. The big chorus of students and townspeople, assisted by W. W. Hinshaw and his sister-in-law, Mrs. Ila Burnap Hinshaw, made this year's concert a record breaker. The chorus was directed by Professor Valley. The accompaniments were played by Miss Nell Cave and Miss Bessie Nicolet. "Paul Revere's Ride" and "Hero and Leander" were selections used.

Besides the glee clubs and Choral Union, Professor Valley formed an organization, in 1907, known as the Chapel Chorus. The intention of Professor Valley was to have a group to sing special music for the chapel exercises. Their debut was in December of that year and noted by the Students' Herald as a grand success. They sang Dudley Buck's Festival Te Deum.⁵⁸

The College Orchestra had twenty-two members during the fall term in 1907, and was under the direction of Professor Harry Brown. The next term the orchestra was complimented by the Industrialist.

It is proper, too, to mention the fine work of the Orchestra under the leadership of Professor Brown. This organization is the pride of the College. Their music is aggressive, harmonious, and well balanced; it has the right orchestra ring to it; it always pleases the audience, no matter whether the rendered selection is of an operatic character, or whether it is a stirring

⁵⁷Industrialist, February 19, 1908, p. 332.

⁵⁸Students' Herald, December 18, 1907.

march, a patriotic song, or a dreamy German waltz.⁵⁹

In 1907 the following report was made on the progress of the Music Department.

The Music Department of the College has enrolled 140 pupils in vocal music and 413 in piano and string instruments this fall term. There is also a class in harmony and a class of advanced students in orchestra music. The latter form an active orchestra and play for the chapel exercises every morning. The students in brass and reed instruments form the College Band, which furnished music for the cadet battalion.⁶⁰

With so many students involved in music the "Wagner Night Program," in 1908, must have deserved the praise given by the Industrialist.

The "Wagner Night Program" given by the Music Department of the College last Thursday evening in the Auditorium as a part of the program of the annual meeting of the Kansas Federation of Women's Clubs was a complete success and a credit to Professor Olaf Valley, R. H. Brown, and their assistants.⁶¹

While the music faculty gradually developed groups capable of public performance, there was also an interest in bringing guest musicians to Kansas State. The Industrialist reported on one such group January 19, 1907, (p. 186).

The Bohumir Kryl Company rendered a fine program to an appreciative audience in the Auditorium on Friday night of last week.

The group that was the first to perform on the College Lecture Course was advertised in the Students' Herald as the greatest group to tour the U.S.

⁵⁹Industrialist, March 21, 1908, p. 382.

⁶⁰Industrialist, October 12, 1907, p. 63.

⁶¹Industrialist, May 23, 1908, p. 525.

College and townspeople are to have the opportunity next Monday of hearing the greatest musical organization that has ever toured America. Seventy musicians, the best soloists in all Italy, with the noted Eugenio Sorrentio as director, comprise the Banda Rossa which will be heard at the college auditorium, Monday, September 21.⁶²

They gave two concerts to capacity crowds and proved to be a money-maker. Maybe, because of this fact, the College Lecture Course, now called the McCain Auditorium Attractions, is still at Kansas State today (1977).

During the last year of the Nichols administration, 1908-1909, a Council of Deans was instituted to deal with the growth of the College.⁶³ Music was under the Deanship of Science. Today music is a department in the College of Arts and Sciences (1977).

Other improvements credited to President Nichols were three new additions to buildings, seven totally new buildings, and the appropriation for Nichols Gymnasium.⁶⁴ Instruction in German was also provided, the Department of Education started, other things contributing to the growth of agricultural education added, and the beginning of summer school, mainly "to meet the needs of the public school teachers of Kansas."⁶⁵

The Board of Regents requested President Nichols resignation on March 21, 1908, but not to be effective until June 30, 1909. That fifteen month period proved to be one of the quietest

⁶²Students' Herald, September 19, 1908.

⁶³Carey, Chapter 6, p. 1-a.

⁶⁴Willard, p. 155.

⁶⁵Willard, p. 147.

and most cooperative of any during his administration and his departure was regretted by almost all.⁶⁶

Henry J. Waters became President of Kansas State July 1, 1909, and remained at the College until he was appointed Food Administrator for Kansas. He resigned December 31, 1917.⁶⁷

When President Waters came he found a very active Music Department. Professor Olaf Valley had been very successful in glee club and chorus work. The Choral Union produced oratorios--The Holy City, by Gaul,⁶⁸ and Elijah by Mendelssohn.⁶⁹ Professor Valley also directed several light operas. Three are mentioned in separate issues of the Industrialist. All are by the English duo Gilbert and Sullivan. H.M.S. Pinafore was presented on February 28, 1913.⁷⁰ The Mikado on March 6, 1914.⁷¹ and The Pirates of Penzance on May 21, 1915.⁷² Professor Robert Harry Brown was also successful in obtaining cooperation of students to participate in band and orchestra.

Note is made of a symphony concert presented to 1,100 music lovers in the Marshall Theater Tuesday night February 28, 1911. Violin solos by Prof. R. H. Brown and bass solos by Prof. Olaf Valley were features of the concert.⁷³

⁶⁶Willard, p. 170.

⁶⁷Willard, p. 244.

⁶⁸Industrialist, December 11, 1909, p. 142.

⁶⁹Industrialist, May 6, 1911.

⁷⁰Industrialist, February 8, 1913.

⁷¹Industrialist, February 28, 1914.

⁷²Industrialist, May 15, 1915.

⁷³Industrialist, March 4, 1911.

Marshall Theater was located at the corner of fourth street and Houston in downtown Manhattan. The J.C. Penney store is at this location today (1977), but toward the top on the outside wall of the store is plainly printed in stone "Marshall Theater."

The College Band was noted participating in the athletic program as early as 1915.

A band of 70 pieces was mentioned to parade the streets of Topeka in connection with the football game with Washburn College.⁷⁴

In 1915 Professor Valley was replaced by Arthur E. Westbrook. He came to Kansas State with high recommendations which all proved to be true.

The Kansas State Agricultural College will become a musical center of no small distinction when the plans of Arthur Westbrook, new head of the department of music, are perfected.⁷⁵

Two years later this praise of Westbrook appeared in the Kansas State Collegian.

Music was not at all a popular subject at K.S.A.C. three or four years ago. Students who elected the courses in voice, orchestra, or instrument were few, and not many of these few seemed overly interested in their work, but the coming of A. E. Westbrook as director of the department brought a change.⁷⁶

The 1914 Biennial Report gave this small piece of philosophy concerning the Music Department.

The department of music aims rather to give our regular students training whereby their power to receive and give pleasure in life may be materially

⁷⁴Industrialist, November 6, 1915.

⁷⁵Industrialist, October 16, 1915.

⁷⁶Kansas State Collegian, December 18, 1917.

increased than to produce professional musicians. The general success of the work of this department has been shown on numerous occasions.⁷⁷

The success of Professor Westbrook was his ability to overcome this philosophy and make music more professional at Kansas State. On several occasions, when the department presented the oratorios Elijah and Messiah, Professor Westbrook invited professional musicians to assist in the productions. His first year at Kansas State presented the first, in a number of years, recital by a member of the music faculty.

Miss May Carley who became instructor in voice in the College music department at the opening of the present term made her first special appearance in a song recital in the auditorium Wednesday evening. Though she came with a high reputation as a singer, she exceeded all expectations. Miss Fanchon Easter, instructor in piano, accompanied Miss Carley most artistically.⁷⁸

Outside of performances by Kansas State groups, a large effort was being made to get more professional groups to perform in Manhattan. The College Auditorium helped attract many performers.

At last a Big Orchestra. Minneapolis Symphony contracted for April 10. Students and faculty of the college and residents of Manhattan are to be given a musical treat on April 10 such as they have never enjoyed here before.⁷⁹

The Saint Paul Symphony Orchestra will give a concert in the College Auditorium in the evening of April 16.⁸⁰

⁷⁷Nineteenth Biennial Report, 1912-1914, p. 64.

⁷⁸Industrialist, January 22, 1916.

⁷⁹Students' Herald, February 18, 1911.

⁸⁰Industrialist, April 11, 1914.

The United States Marine band will give a concert in the auditorium October 23 under the auspices of the Military Department.⁸¹

The Madame Scotney Concert Company gave the first number of the Society Lyceum course Monday evening in the auditorium. Each of the four members of this company is an artist of unusual ability.⁸²

The San Carlo Opera Company gave two Italian operas in the College auditorium.⁸³

By the end of President Water's administration the Music Department offered a three-year curriculum in applied music.⁸⁴ This was a step toward making music more than extra-curricular.

The department of music of the College in its different lines of instruction comes into direct contact with approximately seven hundred students.

From this statement, which appeared in the November 6, 1917, issue of the Kansas State Collegian, it is evident that the department was growing and in need of more instruments and more room. A pipe organ was one instrument that many people felt would help the Music Department. In 1917 though, the purchase of a pipe organ was still just a dream. When the Board of Administration voted to use the Wilson bequest for a residence to accomodate the President of Kansas State, they also voted that the accumulated interest from this fund be combined with fees from the Music Department for the purchase of an organ. While the Department of Music was under the headship of Professor Olaf Valley they presented concerts to the

⁸¹Industrialist, October 17, 1914.

⁸²Industrialist, October 17, 1914.

⁸³Industrialist, December 19, 1917.

⁸⁴Willard, p. 213.

public for a small admission. The proceeds from this amounted to \$679.90 and went into a fund for the purchase of an organ.⁸⁵ It took fourteen years, from that time, before the sound of a pipe organ was heard on campus.

⁸⁵Willard, p. 247.

CHAPTER THREE

1918 - 1950

President William M. Jardine took office March 1, 1918. Julius Willard had been acting president in the few months it took the Board of Administration to find a new President for Kansas State.⁸⁶

It was during President Jardine's first year that a two-year curriculum in public school music was added to the existing three-year program in applied music.⁸⁷ In that same year, the first certificate in applied music was awarded and noted in the Faculty Records.

Dean Willard presented Mary Inez Bachman, the first student for the certificate in music, and moved that it be granted. Motion carried. This certificate is awarded for completion of the three-year course in music.⁸⁸

Under the head of Professor Arthur Westbrook the Music Department advanced in recognition and as a location for some fine musical performances. An Artists' Series of musical and dramatic events was announced in September, 1918.⁸⁹ The Artists' Series was a joint effort by the Departments of Music and Public Speaking. Performances from outside the College

⁸⁶Willard, p. 247.

⁸⁷Willard, p. 213.

⁸⁸Faculty Records E, May 25, 1918.

⁸⁹Kansas State Collegian, September 24, 1918.

community had a little trouble getting started in the year 1920 as shown by this review in the Industrialist.

Appearing in a program of great beauty and power, Arthur Middleton, bass-baritone, carried out the proverbial "the third time's charm" and gave to the College and town audience a memorable program recently. After being scheduled to appear at the College twice before and having suffered mishaps including lost music and a siege with influenza, Mr. Middleton finally succeeded in arriving safely in Manhattan and presenting his numbers.⁹⁰

The Middleton program did not occur until April of 1920, but the school year 1918-19 was filled with recitals from Kansas State's own faculty.

An unusually large audience bore tribute to the excellence of the piano recital given Sunday afternoon in the college auditorium by Miss Patricia Abernathy, piano instructor in the Kansas State Agricultural College. Miss Abernathy's numbers displayed a clear cut technic and a beautiful tone coloring.⁹¹

Modern music pleases audience at College. Miss Elsie Smith played modern impressionist music and Mr. Clifford Johnston sang modern numbers.⁹²

This next recital was also well received.

An enthusiastic audience greeted Miss Katherine Kimmel, contralto and Miss Doris Bugbey, violinist, of the faculty of the music department of the College, when they appeared in joint recital at the College auditorium Sunday afternoon.⁹³

Between 1920 and 1924 the following individuals or groups from outside the community were heard.

⁹⁰Industrialist, April 7, 1920.

⁹¹Industrialist, November 20, 1918.

⁹²Industrialist, December 4, 1918.

⁹³Industrialist, January 8, 1919.

Oscar Seagle, one of the foremost singers on the American concert stage of today, opened the 1920-21 star artist series last Monday night when he appeared at the Agricultural College auditorium in a program of unusual excellence.⁹⁴

December 8, 1920 will be the day when the San Carlo company will return to the Kansas State Agricultural College for a second engagement. At that time "Madame Butterfly" will be sung by the 100 odd persons who make up the company at this time.⁹⁵

Rarely have Manhattan and College audiences had the privilege of hearing so fine a pianist as John Powell who gave the second concert of the artist series at the Kansas State Agricultural College Monday of last week.⁹⁶

Mabel Garrison, soprano in the Metropolitan Opera Company, appeared in concert at the College, March 14, 1921, and pleased a large audience.⁹⁷

A review was printed of the concert given by the New York Philharmonic society as a feature of the fifth annual festival week.⁹⁸

The next fall opened with this notice.

A complimentary notice was printed concerning the concert recital given by Cyrena Van Gordon, Chicago Opera Star.⁹⁹

The annual music festival of 1922 featured Lucy Gates.

The attractions of Festival week were again announced. Lucy Gates was heralded as American's greatest soprano and would be present.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁴Industrialist, November 17, 1920.

⁹⁵Industrialist, December 1, 1920.

⁹⁶Industrialist, March 2, 1921.

⁹⁷Industrialist, March 16, 1921.

⁹⁸Industrialist, May 11, 1921.

⁹⁹Industrialist, October 12, 1921.

¹⁰⁰Industrialist, April 5, 1922.

Tandy MacKenzie, Hawaiian tenor, appeared in recital at the College auditorium Tuesday night. This number is the second of the artists' series. Mr. MacKenzie has a voice of rare quality.¹⁰¹

The last number in the Artists' Series in the spring of 1923, was "a program of songs, stories and legends of the American Indian presented by Thurlow Lieurance and Company."¹⁰² The following fall semester was to begin with a program by violinist Albert Spalding. The October 10, 1923 Industrialist noted that Mr. Spalding "is recognized in all countries as the greatest violinist of this generation." It is difficult to determine if Spalding really appeared when this notice was in the Industrialist the very next month as "the first program of the season."

Mozart's "The Impresario," the first number of the 1923-24 Artists' Series was all that the department of music promised that it would be--and more. The work of Percy Humes was easily the best work in the opera. He sings well and he is a character actor of unusual ability.¹⁰³

The last feature on the 1923-24 Artists' Series was advertised in the Industrialist.

Elly Ney, known the world over as "high priestess of the piano's art" will make her first appearance at the Kansas State Agricultural College next Monday night in the final number of the 1923-24 Artists' series.¹⁰⁴

The increase of students and faculty in music made it necessary to rent residences off-campus to provide additional

¹⁰¹Industrialist, December 6, 1922.

¹⁰²Industrialist, April 18, 1923.

¹⁰³Industrialist, November 14, 1923.

¹⁰⁴Industrialist, February 20, 1924.

room. Space seemed a never ending problem. The staff had recently increased from eight to sixteen members. Some of them have already been mentioned in the recitals they gave. Professor Elsie Harriet Smith was hired in 1917. This is the first time a women had been given the title Professor on the music faculty. Before and during the Nichols administration the title "professor" was given to anyone who was head of a department. Instructor Katherine Kimmel was hired in 1917, and Arnold L. Lovejoy and Harold Parker Wheeler were added to the staff in 1919.

With the success of the Music Department, a plus for President Jardine's administration, he was "visibly disturbed" when in April, 1921, Professor Westbrook, Mr. Lovejoy, Miss Bess Curry, and Mr. Raymond B. Williams resigned from the music faculty. Professor Westbrook resigned in order to head the Dunbar American School of Opera in Chicago. Later he became director of the conservatory of music at Illinois Wesleyan University. Professor Westbrook convinced Mr. Lovejoy to go to Chicago with him, and a year later Miss Katherine Kimmel resigned to marry Professor Westbrook.

President Jardine, with the help of others, made an extended search for a successor to Professor Westbrook and obtained Professor Ira Pratt. Professor Pratt became head of the Music Department June 2, 1921.¹⁰⁵ He became well known for his baritone voice and sang at numerous public functions which made him very popular. Professor Harold

¹⁰⁵Willard, p. 276.

Wheeler, director of the band and orchestra and instructor of classes in band and orchestra succeeded Professor Pratt when he resigned May 31, 1923.¹⁰⁶ Professor Pratt left Kansas State to go to Chicago. There he became affiliated with Mrs. W. S. Bracken of the Cosmopolitan School of Voice.

Miss Ruth Hartman was appointed an assistant professor of music June 1, 1924.¹⁰⁷ She taught public school music as a course. Those who completed the requirements to receive the public school music certificate were able to teach in the state of Kansas.

The three-year curriculum in applied music which had been offered since 1916 was changed in February, 1920, to a four-year curriculum.¹⁰⁸ A student could receive the applied certificate in voice, violin, or piano. Mandolin and guitar had been dropped from the Music Department curriculum in 1908.¹⁰⁹

The music groups of the department were receiving excellent reviews throughout President Jardine's administration.

K.S.A.C. Band among the best in the United States.¹¹⁰

Playing to a total of 10,000 persons the second annual festival week of the K.S.A.C. band exceeded the highest

¹⁰⁶Industrialist, April 22, 1925.

¹⁰⁷Willard, p. 277.

¹⁰⁸Willard, p. 276.

¹⁰⁹Board Minutes C, March 23, 1908, p. 40.

¹¹⁰Industrialist, December 7, 1921.

hopes of the directors and established the spring festival firmly in the minds of the students, townspeople, and visitors as a most desirable permanent feature of the college year.¹¹¹

The concert given by the College orchestra Tuesday evening was in all probability the finest program given by a College orchestra in the history of this institution. From the viewpoint of variety of composition, artistic ensemble, balanced instrumentation, competent personnel, and interpretative direction, the program probably stands unparalleled in the history of the college orchestra.¹¹²

Faculty recitals are drawing good crowds. It is a banner year for the music department. Students and townspeople show appreciation of the work of the department and are turning out loyally to all entertainments.¹¹³

In 1925 President Coolidge appointed President Jardine U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. President Jardine's acceptance ended his presidency at Kansas State and began a career for him in many distinguished positions in federal and state government.¹¹⁴

Francis David Farrell took over the duties of President of Kansas State on March 1, 1925.¹¹⁵ One of the major additions to the Department of Music during the Farrell administration was the pipe organ. The members of the Music Department faculty, and others as well, had been trying to acquire this instrument since 1904 when Professor Olaf Valley was head of

¹¹¹Industrialist, March 20, 1918.

¹¹²Industrialist, March 4, 1925.

¹¹³Industrialist, November 2, 1921.

¹¹⁴Willard, p. 302.

¹¹⁵Willard, p. 319.

the department. The development of war and post-war conditions, along with financial difficulties, excluded for a time serious efforts to get a pipe organ.

When sound movies were perfected and the music, if any, was made part of the film, many theaters had little use for the expensive organs they had. These organs were often sold for greatly reduced prices. It was at this same time that Friends of the Organ Project were looking for funds to supplement the \$1,022.72 they had. The Board of Administration voted to use \$2,000 from the commencement fund and \$5,000 from the fees and maintenance fund to add to the project fund. In reality all departments of Kansas State cooperated in the purchase of the organ, since reductions were made accordingly to make the monies available.

The organ that had been in use in the Liberty Theater in Kansas City, Missouri, was supplied by the Kansas City Organ Service and Supply Company at a cost of \$8,000 installed. The organ was three-manual Austin instrument with a detached console electrically operated.¹¹⁶ This organ burned in the Auditorium fire of 1965. The Music Department has replaced it and added others for a total of four pipe organs today (1977).

Before the pipe organ was installed at the College, the First Methodist Episcopal Church allowed the use of their organ for public recitals. Richard Jesson joined the faculty in 1929 and gave Kansas State many opportunities to hear him perform on the organ.

¹¹⁶Willard, p. 341.

The department of music at the college gave the students and citizens of the community an unusually fine but deplorably rare treat Sunday afternoon, February 2, in presenting Richard Jesson, organist, in recital at the First Methodist Episcopal Church. In his first public appearance as organ recitalist in Manhattan, Mr. Jesson proved himself to be not only the master of a difficult instrument but also a musician of intelligence and emotional understanding.¹¹⁷

Announcement was made recently by Prof. William Lindquist, head of the department of music, of the annual series of concerts sponsored by the department. The first of these will be a dedicatory organ recital February 7 at which time the new pipe organ in the college auditorium will be used. The recital will feature Miss Hilda Grossman and Richard Jesson of the department.¹¹⁸

Mr. Jesson can always be counted upon for thorough going musicianship, for a sense of elegance and discrimination. He is an artist of fine sensibilities and self forgetfulness. Whether it is Bach, or Franck, or Widor, or some other, he plays the work with un-failing intelligence and beauty.¹¹⁹

After the installation of the pipe organ at the College, Richard Jesson was not the only organist on the faculty to be heard in recital as illustrated by this review in the Industrialist March 27, 1935, of an organ recital by Marion Pelton.

Three great candelabra of unwinking tapers lightened the curtained gloom of the college auditorium Sunday afternoon and made an impressive setting for the stirring organ recital given by Marion Pelton of the music department. Her program was in the spirit of the Lenten season, conducive to meditation, though not all the music was strictly religious.

¹¹⁷ Industrialist, February 5, 1930.

¹¹⁸ Industrialist, January 20, 1932.

¹¹⁹ Industrialist, January 22, 1936.

Miss Pelton joined the faculty in 1928 and took organ lessons from Mr. Jesson.¹²⁰

Professor Wheeler resigned as head of the Music Department May 31, 1927.¹²¹ He had improved the curriculum offered by the department and secured some fine musicians on the faculty during his administration. Professor William Lindquist was well known at Kansas State when he was on the faculty from 1921-23. He was often admired for his baritone voice. When Professor Wheeler resigned, Professor Lindquist was asked to return as head of the Music Department. He was appointed June 1, 1927.¹²² Under the guidance of Professor Lindquist the Music Department continued to grow to a more professional status.

The faculty was a well educated and ambitious group of individuals. They gave many recitals and a few studied abroad or furthered their education in the United States. Elsie Harriet Smith, who joined the faculty in 1917, spent a year in Paris. Clarice Painter, who was on the music faculty from 1925 to 1969 headed the piano department in Miss Smith's absence.¹²³

The regular Sunday matinee musical this week was given by Miss Elsie Harriet Smith, pianist, and Mr. Edwin Sayre, tenor. Miss Smith has just returned to her

¹²⁰Marion Pelton, interview held in Manhattan, Kansas, October 10, 1977.

¹²¹Willard, p. 394.

¹²²Willard, p. 394.

¹²³Clarice Painter, interview held in Manhattan, Kansas, October 10, 1977.

position as head of the department of piano at the college, after a year's leave of absence during which she studied under Mme. [sic] Boulanger in Paris.¹²⁴

Miss Hilda Grossman joined the department faculty in 1927.

She furthered her study in 1932 and returned to Kansas State the next year.

Miss Hilda Grossman sang two numbers last Wednesday in student assembly, her first appearance in Manhattan after a year's absence. She was studying under Adelin Sermin, at the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y. during that time, and also doing research on the speaking and singing voice.¹²⁵

Lyle Downey joined the staff in 1928 as director of the orchestra and the cellist in the College Trio. George Henry "held the baton for the year 1935 during Professor Downey's absence to the Eastman School of Music."¹²⁶ George Henry was also a cellist.

The College Trio, in which Lyle Downey was a member, was organized in 1929. It changed personnel several times after that, but in 1943 returned in concert with the original members.

With a record of fourteen years of performance the College faculty trio will present a program Sunday afternoon at 4:15 in the College auditorium. This presentation is one in a series of faculty programs to be presented this semester. The group consisting of Professor Richard R. Jesson, piano, Professor Max R. Martin, violin, and Professor Lyle Downey, cello, of the department of music organized their trio in 1929.¹²⁷

In 1927 Charles Stratton, pianist, joined the faculty. He was certainly one of the more admired musicians on the

¹²⁴Industrialist, September 20, 1933.

¹²⁵Industrialist, September 20, 1933.

¹²⁶Industrialist, January 16, 1935.

¹²⁷Kansas State Collegian, January 29, 1943

faculty during President Farrell's administration. This is proven in the many excellent reviews he received while a member of the staff. He took a year's study abroad, in 1930, and returned to Kansas State to demonstrate his talents.

In his first formal recital after a year's study in London Mr. Charles Stratton, last Sunday afternoon at the college auditorium, again demonstrated that he is both musician and pianist par excellence. Already recognized as a most brilliant performer, Mr. Stratton took a still firmer hold on the hearts of his admirers and won unanimous praise as an interpreter.¹²⁸

The next year Charles Stratton was again featured in recital.

Charles Stratton, pianist, in recital Sunday afternoon, February 21, again demonstrated to his many friends and admirers that he is an artist extraordinary. From Beethovens "Sonata, Op. 78, in F sharp minor" to the brilliant "Tarantella," by Frank [sic] Liszt, with which he closed his program he held his audience in complete thrall to his music.¹²⁹

After this, Mr. Stratton began a trend in recitals in which he featured one composer for each program.

Charles Stratton, pianist, assisted by Charles W. Matthews, lecturer, presented the work of Johann Sebastian Bach on Sunday afternoon in Recreation center. This interesting experiment in community musical education was an intellectual and artistic treat of a high order.¹³⁰

The very next month Mr. Stratton featured Beethoven.

The late November sunshine, which flamed through the windows of Recreation center last Sunday contending with the artificial light within and which gradually sank to paleness, perfectly symbolized Beethoven, lecture-recital subject of the afternoon. Prof. Charles Stratton had chosen for his second Sunday afternoon program three sonatas of this great German composer--

¹²⁸Industrialist, January 14, 1931.

¹²⁹Industrialist, February 24, 1932.

¹³⁰Industrialist, October 18, 1933.

his eighth one, his twenty-third, and his thirty-second. As Prof. Charles Matthews informed his audience in his 20 minutes of introductory discussion, these sonatas represented Beethoven's early period, his middle life of bitter rebellion against his impending deafness, and his last years of patient resignation to his soundless world.¹³¹

The December special composer was Frederic Chopin.

Most enjoyable was the Chopin hour in Recreation center last Sunday with Charles Stratton interpreting him at the piano and Charles Matthews through verbal prelude and interlude.¹³²

The next semester featured Robert Schumann in one program and the piano music of Johannes Brahms in another. In 1935 Mr. Stratton again illustrated music through lecture and performance.

Charles Stratton's piano recital at the college auditorium Sunday would have served illuminatingly to illustrate a lecture on the influence of eighteenth century music upon modern composers, but besides being intellectually informing, it also was aesthetically satisfying both in interpretation and in execution.¹³³

Charles Stratton made many contributions to the Music Department at Kansas State, including giving his music collection to Farrell Library. He was an inspiration to many and admired for his intelligence in all areas of music. He died January 10, 1966.¹³⁴

A major change in the Music Department during President Farrell's administration was the acceptance of women into the

¹³¹Industrialist, November 22, 1933.

¹³²Industrialist, December 13, 1933.

¹³³Industrialist, November 27, 1935.

¹³⁴University News Records, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas.

marching band.

The college band this year rivals that of two years ago which was noted throughout the valley for its size, quality, and snap. The band now contains 80 pieces, led by the new drum-major, Richard Lee Eslinger Wilson, who has had experience as drum-major in the band at the Western Military academy, Alton, Ill. There have been three girls in the band this fall--the first girls ever to march in a K.S.A.C. band. They are Margaret Clover, clarinet, Gertrude Sheetz and Aileen Ellison, cornet.¹³⁵

The Kansas State Wildcat Marching Band now contains 179 women and 141 men (1977).¹³⁶

In October of 1928 John Philip Sousa was to make an appearance at Kansas State. A petition, signed by most of the student body, was presented to Sousa on October 10, requesting him to compose a K.S.A.C. March. The piano arrangement of "Kansas Wildcat March" arrived at the Music Department in the spring of 1931. Sousa's march should not be confused with "The Kansas State Fight Song" which is in use today (1977).

The Music Department presented many programs to the student body and general public during President Farrell's administration. Operas including The Beggar's Opera, The Mikado, Naughty Marietta, The Sorcerer, Trial by Jury, The Pirates of Penzance, and Pinafore. Many were Gilbert and Sullivan operas which are still favorites of opera lovers today.

The annual musical festival brought the first critical review I found in my research.

¹³⁵Industrialist, November 10, 1926.

¹³⁶Phil Hewett, conversation held in Manhattan, Kansas, November 4, 1977.

The eleventh annual musical festival was brought to a successful conclusion by the presentation of Friederich von Flotow's "Martha" under the personal direction of Prof. William Lindquist, who becomes head of the department of music June 1. The program this year was not uniformly good. "The Enemy," by Channing Pollock, the symphony orchestra, and "Martha" were outstanding musical and dramatic successes; but the string quartet was a little above average, and the song cycles and the CXIV Psalm were not so good.¹³⁸

In 1938 the Music Department was presented with a great educational gift from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

April first for some may connote the tomfoolery of the practical joker, but for the music department of Kansas State College, it will be remembered as a red letter day. It was on April 1 last week that President Farrell received word that the Carnegie Corporation of New York had chosen Kansas State as one of 20 colleges and universities to receive the \$2,500 "College Music Set." Each set includes an electric phonograph of special two-cabinet design for use in small rooms and auditoriums; 945 phonograph records, chosen as an anthology of recorded music, ancient and modern, from oriental and occidental countries; a walnut cabinet with 81 buckram albums in which to keep records; 151 bound scores, with miniature or octavo size, included for all completely recorded works in the set; 100 books on musical subjects, historical and biographical, and works of reference; one four-drawer cabinet of printed card indexes of all the records in the set, classified by composer, title, medium, and form.¹³⁹

Two years later this Corporation presented seventy-one books to the school on music subjects. These were placed in the College library. The recordings which were given were used extensively in both classes and for radio broadcasts. The set was completely burned in the 1965 Auditorium fire.

In 1933 most of the music classes and music studios were in the old Auditorium and Nichols Gymnasium. The "music annex"

¹³⁸Industrialist, May 11, 1927.

¹³⁹Industrialist, April 6, 1938.

which had been used for practice and some teaching was given up in that year and a room in Nichols was turned into five practice rooms. The house which was the "music annex" was located on the northeast corner of Anderson and sixteenth street.¹⁴⁰ It is no longer there.

Many outside performers were brought to Kansas State during the years of President Farrell's administration, 1925-1943. On October 14, 1925 the Industrialist announced a recital by Percy Grainger. He was a pianist-composer who received high acclaim for his arrangements of traditional tunes.

Two Russian choirs were brought to Kansas State. One in 1928 and another in 1939.

A Russian symphonic choir under the direction of Basile Kibalchich presented, November 24, in the college auditorium, one of the best recitals Manhattan has heard for a long time.¹⁴¹

A choir of 25 White Russian exiles was enthusiastically received by Manhattan audiences last Wednesday in its two appearances in the college auditorium.¹⁴²

Two groups which had appeared at Kansas State before were heard again. The United States Marine Band of Washington D.C. presented a concert in November of 1930. They were brought to Kansas State before in 1914 under the auspices of the Military Department. Bohumir Kryl and his orchestra had appeared at Kansas State in 1907 and were asked to perform again November

¹⁴⁰Clarice Painter, interview held in Manhattan, Kansas, October 10, 1977.

¹⁴¹Industrialist, December 5, 1928.

¹⁴²Industrialist, November 15, 1939.

12, 1936.¹⁴³

The student council was instrumental in bringing groups to Kansas State in a series of free lyceums. The first one, in 1937, was Angell Mercado and the Tipica Orchestra. They presented rhythms and melodies of Mexico.¹⁴⁴

The College Celebrity Series brought a duo-piano team consisting of Jacques Fray and Mario Braggiotti; concert violinist Dave Rubinoft; the Kansas City Philharmonic under the leadership of Karl Krueger; and Grace and Kurt Graff and their company of dancers and pianists.

President Farrell, who had been in office longer than any of his seven predecessors, returned to teaching in 1943. He gave up the administrative post saying it was time to "bring in a younger man."¹⁴⁵ President Farrell was remembered by Marion Pelton and Clarice Painter as having quite an interest in music, but more worthy of notice was his wife, Mildred, who was always eager to support the Music Department in its growth.

Milton Stover Eisenhower became President of Kansas State July 1, 1943.¹⁴⁶ President Eisenhower was also interested in music, enough to consider some changes in the department. A major change was to bring Luther Leavengood as head of the department. Professor Lindquist resigned as head of the department, but remained on the faculty as a voice instructor

¹⁴³Industrialist, November 11, 1936.

¹⁴⁴Industrialist, November 10, 1937.

¹⁴⁵Carey, Chapter 8, p. 7.

¹⁴⁶University News Records, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas.

until June 30, 1959.¹⁴⁷ President Eisenhower felt that the Music Department needed someone to promote the department through good public relations. He felt Professor Leavengood would be the right person for this.

Another change in President Eisenhower's administration was abolishing the Children's School. This was a preparatory department instructing young children in music who lived in the Manhattan area. Eisenhower felt that the taxpayers of Kansas should not have to subsidize a program in which their children, by not residing in the Manhattan area, could not participate. It did provide an excellent learning laboratory for Kansas State music students who did not participate in student teaching. Dorothy Dale, a 1930 Kansas State graduate in applied piano, helped Marion Pelton with the Children's School through piano teaching.¹⁴⁸

One of the changes Luther Leavengood made was the formation of a new a cappella choir.

A new a cappella choir of 63 voices has been formed by Professor Luther Leavengood, new head of the Department of Music.¹⁴⁹

Another new organization begun by the new department head was the Faculty Piano Quartet. The members were Professors Richard Jesson, piano, Max Martin, violin, Lyle Downey, cello,

¹⁴⁷University News Records, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas.

¹⁴⁸Dorothy Dale, interview held in Hutchinson, Kansas, October 21, 1977.

¹⁴⁹Industrialist, October 11, 1945.

and Luther Leavengood, viola.¹⁵⁰ After Professor Leavengood had been at Kansas State one year, the following progress report appeared in the Industrialist October 31, 1946.

Enrollment in music courses has reached an all-time high, according to Luther Leavengood, head of the Department of Music. Many veterans are taking advantage of the G.I. Bill of Rights for music lessons. One part-time piano instructor at the College has no pupils except ex-servicemen. Fourteen practice rooms busy from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m., six days a week do not meet the demands of students. Permission has recently been granted by College authorities to have practice rooms in the gymnasium open from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. five days a week.

Besides new organizations, two new activities were started.

By popular request students may now hear their favorite symphonic records on the Noon Day Record Hour, every week day excepting Saturday, in Recreation center.¹⁵¹

Another activity was the annual music festival.

K-State will be host to more than 1,000 high school students who attend the District High School Music Festival here April 2 and 3, Luther Leavengood, head of the College music department and manager of the festival, has announced.¹⁵²

The Music Festival, now called Music Awards Day, is still held (1977) for the purpose of promoting the Music Department at Kansas State and giving scholarships to talented music students who are considering attending Kansas State.

The music faculty continued to keep their high quality in recitals and some members had their own compositions performed.

"Scherzo," a composition by David Geppert, assistant professor of music, will be on the program of the

¹⁵⁰Industrialist, February 14, 1946.

¹⁵¹Kansas State Collegian, February 6, 1948.

¹⁵²Industrialist, February 19, 1948.

Chamber Music Recital at 4 p.m. Sunday in Recreation center.¹⁵³

Dr. Rudolph Willmann, associate professor of music, will conduct his own composition, "Governor's March," at the Kansas State College concert band's performance May 25, at 4 p.m. in the College Auditorium.¹⁵⁴

Band Day was another tradition that is still held today (1977).

Band Day is here again. The annual high school fiesta is expected to climb back to its prewar brilliance again this weekend. In 1934 the Wildcat gridsters played the Cornhuskers at Lincoln on their band day. (Just for the record K-State nipped Nebraska in that game and won the Big Six Championship). The idea of a Kansas State College Band Day was brought back by Professor Holtz of the economics department, who was then assistant coach on the football team.¹⁵⁵

Many performers and groups with world wide acclaim visited the Kansas State campus during President Eisenhower's administration. From the Metropolitan Opera Association, Helen Jepson, leading soprano, Marie Wilkins, soprano, and Charles Kullman, tenor, all gave performances that received good reviews from the Industrialist. In the years 1945 through 1948 the Kansas City Philharmonic, The Saint Louis Sinfonietta, The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and several of American's jazz artists in a show entitled "Jazz at the Philharmonic" were heard.

Large crowds at musical performances were not unusual. The yearly Christmas program always had a large audience.

The music department's annual Christmas Vespers were presented Sunday afternoon before an overflow audience in the College Auditorium. All seats were filled and many stood in the aisles and doorways to

¹⁵³Kansas State Collegian, April 30, 1948.

¹⁵⁴Kansas State Collegian, May 20, 1947.

¹⁵⁵Kansas State Collegian, October 1, 1948.

hear the program of religious and classical music.¹⁵⁶
An all black choir "The Wings Over Jordon," also brought a good attendance.

"Wings Over Jordon" which is proclaimed as America's greatest Negro choir, relived their recent European tour in song Saturday night with an audience of an estimated 1,400 persons in the College Auditorium.¹⁵⁷

A faculty recital brought as many as 300 people to listen.

David Geppert, pianist, and Jean Hedlund, oboist, instructors in the department of music, presented a program of classical and modern music in a joint recital before about 300 appreciative students, faculty members and Manhattan townspeople in the College Auditorium Sunday afternoon.¹⁵⁸

For many years there had been an annual music week which was held in the spring. A special artist was featured and all the music organizations gave performances. The Kansas State Collegian had this announcement concerning music week, April 25, 1946.

Recitals and concerts by guest artists, faculty members, the College band and a cappella choir will be given each night May 5 through 10 observing National Music Week on the campus. Miss Fredell Lack, violinist and featured soloist of Music Week, will give a concert Wednesday at 8:15 p.m. in the College auditorium. Recently returning from a recital tour of Central America the young musician has appeared as soloist with the St. Louis, Houston, Chatauqua, and New Jersey State symphony orchestras and has given solo recitals in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The Men's and Women's Glee Clubs have been established in the Music Department for a long time and both groups usually give an annual concert. For the annual concert in the spring of 1948, the Men's Glee Club sang a variety of numbers.

¹⁵⁶Kansas State Collegian, December 14, 1948.

¹⁵⁷Kansas State Collegian, March 21, 1946.

¹⁵⁸Kansas State Collegian, April 15, 1947.

Four centuries of music will be represented in the Men's Glee Club annual Spring Concert tonight at 8:15 in the auditorium. The fifty members of the glee club will be directed by Professor J. Forrest West of the voice faculty. Selections dating back to 1564, a hymn "O Sacrum Convivium" by Vivadana, up to the popular music of Sigmund Romberg's "My Heart Stood Still" will be on the program.¹⁵⁹

Milton Eisenhower's term ended June 30, 1950.¹⁶⁰ His administration was not known for new buildings or numbers of new students, but for the increase in thinking on the idea of what constituted a good education. It has been a long way from President Denison's rough outline, which President Anderson drastically changed, to what Kansas State has become today. With the enrollment boom of the late 1940s after World War II Kansas State found it had a shortage of qualified faculty, but the Music Department always seemed to have plenty of well educated and ambitious musicians to share what they knew with Kansas State students. Because most members of the music staff were ambitious and talented, the Music Department grew, despite two devastating fires and often poor facilities.

The end of the Eisenhower administration concludes this report. I selected the year 1950 to end because of the very rapid growth the Music Department has experienced in its last generation. The activities of the department and the faculty who encouraged these are too numerous to discuss in a paper of this scope, but a brief mention of the administration led

¹⁵⁹Kansas State Collegian, May 21, 1948.

¹⁶⁰Carey, Chapter 8, p. 17.

by James Allen McCain will bring this story to the present day.

James McCain became President of Kansas State on July 1, 1950 and remained in that position for twenty-five years.¹⁶¹ President McCain was a great supporter of music and the arts. The academic program was increased under his administration to make Kansas State a University. He will always be remembered by music students for the many music programs he attended while President, taking a seat toward the back. It was therefore proper, when he resigned as President, to name the new Auditorium, McCain Auditorium.

In honor of his retirement in 1975, a ten day festival arts celebration was held. Performances included the Kansas City Philharmonic Orchestra and Johannes Brahms's German Requiem, performed by the Manhattan Chorale, Concert Choir, and the Collegiate Chorale; the Martha Graham Dance Company; a special dinner; and a production of Die Fledermaus by the Departments of Music and Speech.

The principal occasion of the week came with the April 19 reception and dinner followed by the "Die Fledermaus" performance, during which the new auditorium building (main part erected in 1970) was dedicated. Elmer Jackson, chairperson of the Kansas Board of Regents, presented the presidential medallion and Governor Robert Bennett officially renamed what had been known only as the "KSU Auditorium" now "McCain Auditorium."¹⁶²

¹⁶¹Carey, Chapter 11, p. 8.

¹⁶²Carey, Chapter 11, p. 8.

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THE HISTORY OF MUSIC AT
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY 1863-1950

by

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AN ABSTRACT OF A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF MUSIC

Department of Music

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Manhattan, Kansas

1978

This report traces the history of the Music Department at Kansas State University from the time the College opened its doors in 1863 until the end of Milton Eisenhower's administration in 1950.

Kansas State opened as a land-grant college whose primary purpose was to teach agriculture and mechanical skills for men and homemaking for women. Music was also taught, but its use in the early years of Kansas State, was primarily in conjunction with calisthenics. There was a college band for just this purpose. Instrumental music was taught on the piano and melodeon in the early years. Vocal music was also taught.

Music was to be taken as an industrial by women only, in the early years. Men could play instruments in the band and sing in the choir, but their participation was extracurricular. Women were not allowed in the band until 1926.

University Presidents at Kansas State have generally supported music. Only under one administration, that of President Anderson, did music experience a setback. President Anderson, in keeping with what he felt was the purpose of a land-grant college, did let music remain in the curriculum, but would not offer the humanities, foreign languages, or social science courses which help students become better musicians. It was left to his successors to promote these courses.

Kansas State has brought in musical groups from outside the community since 1900. Symphonies from Minneapolis, New York, Cincinnati, and Kansas City have performed on campus.

Many Metropolitan Opera singers have given programs. Choirs from all over the world have also performed at Kansas State.

The separate departments at the College were always short of space and various fires did not help this situation. The Music Department suffered extreme losses in two fires; the College Auditorium in 1965 and Nichols Gymnasium in 1968.

The music faculty has always been an ambitious and talented group of men and women, ready to share what they know with students at Kansas State.

The Music Department has expanded in all areas since Kansas State's beginning. In a report of this scope not every detail can be included, but it does show the progress the Music Department has made. This progress is an important part to the history of Kansas State University.