

A0862

Ladies Friday Musical Club Records, 1891-1999

3 boxes

Processed by Diane Boucher Ayotte (1990) and Dina Young (1999)

REPOSITORY

Missouri Historical Society Archives

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DONOR INFORMATION

The Ladies Friday Musical Club Records were donated to the Missouri Historical Society by the club, c/o Jane Robichaux, on December 3, 1982 (82-0060). Numerous additions to the original gift have been made since 1982, and continue to be made by the club every few years.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Ladies Friday Musical Club was formed in 1882 when Mrs. Lizzie Drey, an accomplished pianist, and Mrs. Carrie Glaser, a singer, along with two other friends, Nettie Weil and Emma Kohn Frank, began to meet in each other's homes one Friday afternoon a month for an hour of vocal and instrumental performance and discussion. Later, and for most of their history, the club met at 11:00 a.m. and had lunch after the program.

By 1892, the group had grown and the ladies decided to organize more formally, drafting a constitution and electing officers. Active members were required to perform upon request. In 1911, the constitution was amended to allow a member who had been active for at least 15 years to become an associate member, performing only if she wished. Because they met in each other's homes, active membership was at first limited to 20 and then held to around 30 ladies who implicitly had to possess the time and resources to entertain the club. In the beginning the members were all Jewish, but over the years non-Jewish membership increased to a slight majority. The first non-Jewish member in 1894 was also its first "professional" musician, Selma Papendick, who remained active in the club for 63 years.

The foremost criterion for membership was always musical talent. A prospective member had to audition in front of a committee before being asked to join, and the standards were very high. Once a year the club holds a public "entertainment" with the proceeds going to young music students. Since 1912, the club has annually bought a block of symphony tickets and distributed them to needy music students. They have also used some endowments to fund scholarships for music students. At first they screened all the applicants themselves, but in 1968 they began funneling the money through the junior college system.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The most complete component of the club's records are minutes from the meetings which began when the group was formally organized in May 1892. Box 1 contains a nearly complete run of minutes through 1994. In those cases where there are no minutes, the final reports of each committee and the president's annual report (filed in the "Minutes and Reports" section of Box 1) shed light on the club's activities for those periods. There are several folders of general

correspondence in Box 2, including correspondence from Lizzie Drey. The club's financial material is sparse. (Treasurer's reports are found in the minutes of the club's meetings.) Material regarding the State and National Federation of Music Clubs with which the club was at times affiliated is also located in Box 2. Programs from the group's performances are located in Box 3, along with newspaper clippings, and a nearly complete set of club yearbooks, ranging in date from 1916 to 1997.

Box 1

- Folder 1 General histories, 1921, 1931, 1972; photograph, 1962
- Folder 2 Constitution and by-laws, 1935-1991
- Folder 3 Minute book, 1892 May 13–1901 March 1
- Folder 4 Minute book, 1901 Oct 18–1912 Apr 5
- Folder 5 Minute book, 1912 Oct 18–1917 May 4
- Folder 6 Minute book, 1917 Oct 19–1921 Dec 1
- Folder 7 Minutes and reports, 1922 Oct 2–1929 Feb 8
- Folder 8 Minutes and reports, 1930 Oct 17–1932 May 6
- Folder 9 Minutes and reports, 1932 Oct–1935 Apr
- Folder 10 Minutes and reports, 1935 Oct–1939 Apr
- Folder 11 Minutes and reports, 1939 Oct–1941 May
- Folder 12 Minutes and reports, 1941 Oct–1944 Apr
- Folder 13 Minutes and reports, 1944 Oct–1947 May
- Folder 14 Minutes and reports, 1947 Oct–1950 July
- Folder 15 Minutes and reports, 1950 Oct–1953 May
- Folder 16 Minutes and reports, 1953 Oct–1956 May
- Folder 17 Minutes and reports, 1956 Oct–1958 Apr
- Folder 18 Minutes and reports, 1958 Oct–1961 May
- Folder 19 Minutes and reports, 1961 Oct–1964 Apr
- Folder 20 Minutes and reports, 1964 Oct–1967 May
- Folder 21 Minutes and reports, 1967 Oct–1970 May
- Folder 22 Minutes and reports, 1970 Oct–1972 Dec
- Folder 23 Minutes and reports, 1973 Jan–1977 May
- Folder 24 Minutes and reports, 1978 May–1980 May
- Folder 25 Minutes and reports, 1982 Oct–1985 May
- Folder 26 Minutes and reports, 1985 Oct–1987 May
- Folder 27 Minutes and reports, 1987 Oct–1989 May
- Folder 28 Minutes and reports, 1989 Oct–1990 May
- Folder 29 Minutes and reports, 1990 Oct–1992 May
- Folder 30 Minutes and reports, 1992 Nov–1994 May
- Folder 31 Minutes and reports, 1994 Oct–1996 May
- Folder 32 Minutes and reports, 1996 Oct–1997 May
- Folder 33 Committee reports and notes, no date

Box 2

- Folder 1 Correspondence from Lizzie Drey, 1931-1942
- Folder 2 Correspondence, 1918-1938
- Folder 3 Correspondence, 1940-1949
- Folder 4 Correspondence, 1953-1957
- Folder 5 Correspondence, 1961-1969
- Folder 6 Correspondence, 1970-1982
- Folder 7 Correspondence, no date
- Folder 8 Financial material: Interest clause notes, 1924; bank deposit book, 1924; loan statements, 1924-1927; bills and financial data, 1949, 1961-1962, no date
- Folder 9 Scholarship awards: lists of awards, 1973-1994 (incomplete)
- Folder 10 Missouri Federation of Music Clubs: correspondence, convention reports, programs, 1930-1934, no date

Folder 11 National Federation of Music Clubs: By-laws; fliers; reports; programs; *Music Clubs Magazine* (1934); 1919-1934

Folder 12 Programs; fliers; newsletters; tickets regarding local and state musical organizations, 1921-1978; no date

Box 3

Folder 1 Programs, 1891-1998, no date

Folder 2 Yearbooks, 1916/1917–1925/1926 (complete)

Folder 3 Yearbooks, 1926/1927–1953/1954 (complete)

Folder 4 Yearbooks, 1954/1955–1979/1980 (lacks 1974/1975)

Folder 5 Yearbooks, 1980/1981–1998/1999 (lacks 1982/1983)

Folder 6 Newspaper clippings, 1932-1995