

MS-432, Inland Children's Chorus Collection

Collection Number: MS-432

Title: Inland Children's Chorus Collection

Dates: 1936-2011 (Bulk 1936-1970)

Creator: Inland Children's Chorus

Summary/Abstract:

The Inland Children's Chorus was sponsored by the Inland Manufacturing Division of the General Motors Corporation from 1936-1970 and open to children (ages 8-16) of Inland employees. The collection includes programs from their concerts, photographs, books, newspaper and periodical clippings, certificates, and memorabilia all donated by former members of the Chorus.

Quantity/Physical Description: 2.5 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection

Restrictions on Use:

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Preferred Citation:

(Box Number, Folder Number), MS-432, Inland Children's Chorus Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Acquisition:

Wright State University Special Collections and Archives accessioned the Inland Children's Chorus records in 2010, with an addition in 2011. Gerald Alred, a former member of the chorus, coordinated the collecting of the materials from former members of the chorus and the donation to Special Collections and Archives. Donors include Gerald Alred, Thomas Connair, Mike Eifert, Mary Federspiel, Susan Gmaz Jones, Jim Lehman, Mary Lubinski, Matthew Phelan, Fred Moore, Phyllis Phillips, Nancy Provost, and Shirley Whiting.

Accruals: Additional records will be deposited in the future.

Separations: The book titled The Great Gift: The Courageous Life and Martyrdom of Sister Dorothy Stang was cataloged separately and is available in the Special Collections and Archives Reading Room. Inland Children's Chorus is referenced on pages 29-30.

Other Finding Aid:

Inland Children's Chorus website inlandchorus.com contains digital versions of the materials in this collection. The website is organized by articles, music, programs, photos, and a forum for comments. It is helpful to view the website as a complimentary source of information on the chorus. It is also a great place to listen to the sound recordings of the Chorus.

Additional Sources:

Inland Children's Chorus website: inlandchorus.com.

Processed by: Jeremy Katz, April 2011

Finding aid updated: Jeremy Katz, February 2012

Arrangement: The collection is organized into four series:

Series I: Publications

Series II: Correspondence

Series III: Photographs and Artifacts

Series IV: Sound Recordings

Biographical/Historical Note

Formed in 1936, the Inland Children's Chorus was a unique blend of American industry, youth, and the performing arts. The Inland Manufacturing Division of the General Motors Corporation sponsored the Chorus in an effort to contribute to the cultural life of the community. The Chorus was open to children of Inland employees. The founding director of the Chorus was Richard Westbrook. He directed the Chorus until his death in 1955, at which point Joseph Geiger became director until the Chorus was disbanded in 1970. Inland brought in Raymond Sovey, a two-time Tony Award nominee and Broadway theatrical designer, to stage the concerts.

During its 34 year tenure, the Chorus gained national acclaim through concerts and television and radio appearances. They often performed with the Dayton Philharmonic and for audiences at the Dayton Art Institute (many of the programs from these concerts can be found in the collection). The boys performed in Eaton suits and the girls wore Alice Blue gowns. Inland provided annual Christmas gifts for the members, some of which are included in the collection. The Chorus was disbanded in 1970 and the Inland Division was later sold to Delphi Automotive Systems. In 2010, Gerald Alred, a member of the Chorus created a web site about Inland Children's Chorus, in an effort to preserve the Chorus' unique history and provide a forum for former members to share their memories. As a result, former members of the Chorus are welcome to attend what will be an annual luncheon in the spring in Dayton, Ohio. The first luncheon was in 2010.

(Sources:http://history.gmheritagecenter.com/wiki/index.php/Inland_Manufacturing_Division and inlandchorus.com).

Scope and Content

Researchers studying the Inland Children's Chorus Collection can gain insight into industry and social life in Dayton during the mid-20th century. The collection is arranged into four series:

Series I, Publications, contains concert spanning the 34 years of the Chorus programs and an original score to the St. Nicolas concert. It also contains issues of the *Inlander*, *GM Folks*, as well as newspaper clippings featuring the Chorus. A couple of books Alred later published as a Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee also appear in this series.

Series II, Correspondence, contains letters, greeting cards, and holiday party invitations exchanged between members of the Chorus.

Series III, Photographs and Artifacts, contains professional photographs of the Chorus spanning 1943 to 1962, as well as photographs from recent reunions. This series also houses artifacts from the collection including a bracelet, a hair ribbon and piece of fabric from the Alice Blue Gowns worn by the girls in the chorus, and a sterling silver belt buckle inscribed "Inland Chorus '52". Certificates of Achievement presented to members Gerald (Jerry) Alred and Susan Gmaz Jones are also in this series.

Series IV, Sound Recordings, includes records of the Chorus in concert in 78 rpm and 33 1/3 rpm formats. Several records were donated by Thomas Connair and Shirley Whiting. These recordings are available for listening on the Inland Children's Chorus website at inlandchorus.com.

Subject Terms

Organizations/Corporate Names

Inland Children's Chorus
Inland Division of General Motors Corporation

Places

Dayton (Ohio)

Subjects (General)

Children's Chorus
General Motors

Material Types

Programs
Newspaper Clippings
Periodical Clippings
Books
Correspondence
Certificates
Photographs

CD
 Cassette Tape
 LPs
 Artifacts

Collection Inventory

Series I		Publications	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Concert Programs	1937-1953
	2	Concert Programs	1954-1964
	3	Saint Nicolas Choral Score	1948
	4	The <i>Inlander</i> Clippings	1936-1970, 1995
	5	<i>GM Folks</i>	Dec. 1944, 1945
	6	Inland 50 th Anniversary Publication	Jan. 1973
	7	Newspaper Clippings	1937-2010, Undated
	8	<u>Business and Technical Writing: An Annotated Bibliography of Books, 1880-1980</u> by Alred, Reep, & Limaye	1981
	9	<u>The St. Martin's Bibliography of Business and Technical Communication</u> by Gerald Alred	1997
	10	Excerpt from <u>The Great Gift: The Courageous Life and Martyrdom of Sister Dorothy Stang</u> by Breton (the book is available in the reading room)	2008
Series II		Correspondence	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	11	Correspondence & Holiday Cards	2010-2011, Undated
	12	Christmas Card & Party Invitations	1939, 1940, 1954
Series III		Photographs and Artifacts	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	1	Paper Doilies and Scarf Tag from Chorus events	1944-1945
	2	Bracelet given to girls of Chorus as Christmas Gift (located behind spacer)	1949
	3	Belt Buckle inscribed, "Inland Chorus '52" (located behind spacer)	1952

	4	Certificate of Achievement (Susan Gmaz Jones)	May 12, 1954
	5	Certificate of Achievement (Gerald Alred)	Apr. 26, 1959
	6	Photographs & Silhouette art of Susan Gmaz Jones	1947-1960, 1964
	7	Reunion Invitation and Photos	May 12, 2010 2011
	8	Website (inlandchorus.com) on disc and paper	2011
	9	Hair Ribbon and Dress Clipping (located behind spacer). Donated by Susan Gmaz Jones.	Undated
3	1	Oversized Professional Photographs (Donated by Susan Gmaz Jones, Mike Eifert, and Jerry Alred)	1943-1962
Series VII Sound Recordings (please see inlandchorus.com for listening and album covers)			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
		In Bound Folder of 9 Records:	
4		Record #1: “Glory to God” and “O Little Town of Bethlehem”—“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”	[1940]
		Record #2: “O Holy Night” and “Gesu Bambino”	1940
		Record #3: “Silent Night” and “Ava Maria”—“The First Nowell”	1940
		Record #4: Songs of Love and Alice Blue Gown	1945
		Record #5: The Lord’s Prayer and That’s an Irish Lullaby	1945
		Record #6: “Valse Triste” and “Tales from Vienna Woods”	1946
		Record #7: “Star Dust” and Deep in my Heart”	1946
		“The Story of Bethlehem” (3 records)	Dec. 24, 1940
		Record #8: “Stouthearted Men” and “Over the Rainbow”	1947
		Record #9: “The Green Cathedral” and Gloria from “Twilight Mass”	1949
		In Bound Wrapper of 3 Records:	
		Record #1: “Glory to God” and “O Little Town of Bethlehem”—“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”	1940
		Record #2: “O Holy Night” and “Gesu Bambino”	1940
		Record #3: “Silent Night” and “Ava Maria”—“The First Nowell”	ca. 1940
		Romance from “The Desert Song” and You’ll Never Walk Alone from “Carousel”	1948
		Smoke Gets in Your Eyes from “Roberta” and Toyland from “Babes in Toyland”—Prayer from	1948

	“Haensel & Gretel”	
	Giannina Mia and Donkey Serenade Ol’ Man River	1950
	Adeste Fideles and Sleep Baby Sleep The Lord’s Prayer	1951
	Mr. Frog, a Courtin’ He Did Ride and Zing, Zing- Zoom Zoom Oh! What a Beautiful Morning!	1951
	Sanctus from “St. Cecilia Mass” and “Sorrento Folk Song”—“Iris”	1949
	In a Monastery Garden and Serenade	1950
	In Bound Wrapper of 9 Records:	
	Record #1: “Old King Cole” and “Are You Sleeping Brother John” Record	1953
	Record #2: “Let’s Dance”—“Beyond the Blue Horizon” and “When the Red Robin Comes”	1953
	Record #3: “O Divine Redeemer” and “Popule Meus” (Hear, O My People)	1954
	Record #4: “I Believe” and “Adonoi”—“V’Shom’ru”	1954
	Record #5: “Shrimp Boats” and “Ol’ Man River”	1952
	Record #6: “Silent Night” and “Adesta Fideles”	1952
	Record #7-9: “The Story of Bethlehem” (3 records)	1954
	“Nursery Rhymes” and “Cradle Song” (Donated by Thomas Connair)	1949
	“Miracle of St. Nicolas” (Donated by Mary Westbrook Lubinski from the personal collection of Director Richard Westbrook)	Dec. 1953
	December 1940 Concert (CD)	1995
	1956 Album	1956
	1957 Album	1957
	1958 Album	1958
	1959 Album	1959
	1960 Album (25 th Anniversary concert at Memorial Hall)	1960
	Silver Anniversary Records: Selections from 1960 Programs	1960
	1961 Album	1961
	1962 Selections Album	1962
	1964 Album “Songs for All Seasons”	1964
	In Bound Wrapper of 3 Records:	
	“Glory to God” and “O Little Town of Bethlehem” — Hark the Herald Angels Sing”	1940

		“O Holy Night” and Gesu Bambino”	1940
		“Silent Night” and “Ava Maria”—“The First Nowell”	1940
		Selections from 1959 Programs	1959
		Selections from 1964 Programs	1964
		Selections from 1965 Programs	1965
		Selections from 1966 Programs	1966
		Matt Phelan 1995 Tape of 1940 Concert (CD & Cassette Tape)	1940, 1995
		Selections (CD)	2010
		Package for records addressed to Richard Westbrook from the Inland Manufacturing Division	Dec. 10, 1951