University Songs
1903-2008

SONG BOOK

PUBLISHED BY THE
UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO
1916

Co-curated by Jason Imbesi & Molly O’Brien
The first alma mater for the University at Buffalo was written in 1903 by two alumni, Walter S. Goodale and Samuel B. Botsford. Botsford, lyricist, was a graduate of the Law School in 1902 and Goodale, composer, graduated from the Medical school in 1903. In addition to composing the alma mater, they also established the Glee Club and Mandolin Club, which they maintained and performed in until 1907. The alma mater was arranged for the Glee Club in 1905, by Henry S. Hendy. Additionally, it was arranged for instrumental ensemble by Herman E. Schultz, a local composer, and Livingston Gearhart, composer, pianist and arranger, and member of the music faculty from 1955-1985. Gearhart’s arrangement can be found on an LP owned by the Music Library which contains other favorites of the marching band (see the case Fight songs, Marches, and More). In 2006, University students updated Botsford’s lyrics and performed them at the Commencement Ceremony in 2007.
Alma Mater (arr. by Herman E. Schultz)
1st Violin and Banjo parts
Alma Mater (arr. Livingston Gearhart)
Livingston Gearhart
Courtesy of University Archives

Page of the 2007 Commencement program featuring the updated lyrics to the Alma Mater

UB Alma Mater

Verse 1:
The pride of our spirit and tradition,
Our alma mater’s truth and name declare,
Celebrate our heritage and wisdom,
Let us all pursue her glory.
Refrain
To Buffalo all had to be true,
Noble and strong it’s our university,
To blue and white colors��地
Singing, I will always remember this!
Verse 2:
We’ll keep our standards high,
And sing UB’s praises to the sky,
Receiving the finest education,
Our knowledge we impart unto the nations.
(Repeat refrain)
Verse 2:
Our friends we’re made with ties that bind,
A union of our spirit, heart, and mind,
Together we’ll continue life’s journey,
O may dear Buffalo forever be.
(Repeat refrain)
CASE 2

An article announcing a song contest was published in the Spectrum on Dec. 9, 1955. It called for songs “truly representative of the University of Buffalo.” Song entries were to follow one of two classifications:

1. “A University fight song i.e. on the order of the Notre Dame, Wisconsin, George [i.e. Georgia] Tech, etc. victory marches. Songs for this category must be written in a march tempo.”

2. “A ballad type song i.e. like the Halls of Ivy, Wiffenpoof, Sweetheart Songs etc. Songs of this category must be written at a tempo not to exceed a moderate 4/4 time.”

The contest was open to all students, faculty and alumni of the University of Buffalo. Response to the contest was limited. Only 10 entries were received and the judging committee refused to pick a winner in either category from such a small pool of applicants.

The judging committee included the following members: Herbert W. Beattie and Robert Mols, founders of the Music Department in 1953 and faculty members; William Everett, representing the alumni; Tom Heanle, representing the student body; Theodore Siekman, Director of Alumni Relations; Talman W. Van Arsdale Jr., Director of the Development Office; and Jack Deeringer, Dean of Students.
Class 2- Ballad

The Chimes

The chimes ring out from high above us,
To tell us of these halls we love;
We hear throughout the years we labor,
Their call to learn all else about us.
And when the time has come to go,
We hear their blessing and we see,
That though we leave our hearts remain,
Forever at U.I.

John Potts
161 Verdelis Road
Kenmore 23, New York

Class 1- Fight Song

The Spirit of Buffalo

Fight on, fight on for U. of B.,
Fight on, fight on to victory;
Pumps down that time to reach our goal,
Tear down the goal past poles by pole.
Bring back the trophy to our halls,
All those against us you must fell;
We will show them that they cannot beat the Blue and white,
So, fight on, you Bulls, fight, fight.

John Potts
161 Verdelis Road
Kenmore 23, New York

Examples of submissions to the Song Contest entered by John Potts
CASE 3

Sheets and booklets of UB school songs were released in various collections. Special song sheets were released for various events, such as University Day and the 1929 Endowment Fund Campaign, a movement to raise money for campus improvement and expansion. In the early years of the university, different departments (such as the Pharmacy School) issued their own collections containing songs both about the university and their department as well as other popular songs. As UB grew and became more unified, department song sheets were rarely printed; instead, booklets for the entire university were issued.

Jay Mark Ward
Courtesy of University Archives
SONG SHEET

University of Buffalo
Endowment Fund
Campaign
October 17th to 29th, 1929

1
SIDE BY SIDE
Oh, we ain't got a barrel of money,
Maybe we're ragged and funny,
But we'll travel along, singin' a song.
Side by side.

Don't know what's comin' to-morrow,
Maybe it's trouble and sorrow,
But we'll travel the road, sharin' our load,
Side by side.

Thru all kinds of weather,
What if the sky should fall,
Just as long as we're together
It doesn't matter at all.

When they've all had their quarrels and parted
We'll be the same as we started,
Just trav'lin along, singin' a song,
Side by side.

(Moonlight and Roses)

Copyright, Kingsley, Boston & Co., N.Y.

2
MOONLIGHT AND ROSES
Moonlight and roses
Bring wonderful memories of you—
My heart repines
In beautiful thoughts so true.
June night discloses
Love's golden dreams sparkling anew—
Moonlight and roses
Bring memories of you.

Copyright, 1925, Villa Morel, San Francisco

3
THE BELLS OF ST. MARY'S
The Bells of St. Mary's, Ah! hear they are calling
The young lover—the true lover who comes from the sea,
And so my beloved, when red leaves are falling,
The love-bells shall ring out, Ring out, for you and me.

Copyright, 1927, Ascherberg, Hopwood & Co., Ltd.

4
HI-HO THE MERRIO
I wake up each morning, singing merrily
Hi-Ho the Merrio as long as she loves me
I can laugh at troubles, I'm happy as can be
Hi-Ho the Merrio as long as she loves me
Just like a rooster I keep crowin'
She started something and she's got me go-in'
Bring on all your bundles; bring 'em C. O. D.
Hi-Ho the Merrio as long as she loves me.

Copyright, Jerome H. Remick & Co.

1929 Endowment Fund
Campaign poster
Courtesy of University Archives
Pharmacy Song Sheet

AMERICA
My country 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing,
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrim's pride,
From every mountain side,
Let freedom ring.

ALMA MATER
Where once the Indian trod the silent wood,
Above the beach where antelope do stand,
Where martyrs brought the faith, and patriot swords
Assembled oft to ovate invading hordes.

(Chorus)
Brothers tonight we sing the chorus true,
Pledging the health of our University,
To U. of R., to U. of R.,
Our Alma Mater by the inland sea.

ALUMNI SONG
Embraced in the beautiful city
That sits by an inland sea
Are the wonderful buildings of learning—
The College that's dear to me.
Here men's hearts still beat to Rogers
Our foundation that ever shall not
While Time, with the tip of his finger,
Gestures gently the page of the past.

Away are the kids and the liaison
Whose hearts were so gay and so bright;
They have jelled in the rash of the masses
In the world, to battle for right;
But though Time shall Frown their faces
And threaten our temples with grey,
Allegiance all cares still discovers,
The old love that thrills us to-day.

Then sing we her praises forever,
The father of free and the White;
She is crowned with immaterial splendor
And dowered with love of the right.
A song then for old Alma Mater,
We wait to the Angle on high
From hearts that have never forgot her
Two years may have long since passed by.

IN U-BEMA HALL
Tune (in Bohemia Hall)
In Science Hall, in Science Hall,
Where Julian Faith is king.
By Science Hall we spread our wings,
If they don't build a wing.
For they need about a dozen
They're crowded in the doors.
And they'll give a box for 60.
In Science Hall.

In Medico Hall, in Medico Hall,
Where Cumber James is king.
In Medico Hall, as I recall,
They smoke and bust they sing.
To sing it no one's able,
As I sit on the table.
They don't give a chance for any old man
In Medico Hall.

In Lawyers Hall, in Lawyers Hall,
Where Allen plays the king.
The Lawyers Hall is near them all
The court, the jail, the sling.
To keep from jail they're able
By pull and by air sail
They don't give a chance for lawyer or man
In Lawyers Hall.

In Dentists Hall, in Dentists Hall,
Where Jappo Shows is king.
In Dentists Hall they fill them all
They hurt, you see, they sting.
Oh the blessings dear "grandma,
That bed they should disable.
For they don't give a dinn for any old man
In Dentists Hall.

In Foster Hall, in Foster Hall,
Where Grouchey is king.
They mix them all, but no high hall
The fix, the pop, the sting.
With a smell just like a stack
To drink them no one's able
For the dope that they use kills any old man
In Foster Hall.
BUFFALO
I sought the strangest in your town
BUFFALO
My tongue to Bin with miniature brows,
BUFFALO.
The old man's face I chanced to say
"Where did you go and where is the way?"
BUFFALO.
I went one day to inquire my will
BUFFALO
My lawyer did the work with skill
BUFFALO.
As I paid the fee, said I
"For the fee whom did you qualify?"
He smiled and promptly did reply
BUFFALO.
A distant man — no ordinary task,
BUFFALO.
A dash of work, relief forsooth.
BUFFALO.
"O, Thanks!" said I. "But whose deep heart,
Did you have as well your dental art?"
He stared and answered with a start
BUFFALO.
"The young man I had one night
BUFFALO.
The doctor came and set me right.
BUFFALO.
And I "Old man, in the name of all
Here do you get your good chaplains?"
He smiled and then said, with a grin.
BUFFALO.
Now when you dead and laid out cold
BUFFALO.
If I ask the undertaker bold,
BUFFALO.
"Old man, where did you leave your work?"
I hope we held an inquest on a cork.
BUFFALO.
U. of B. STUDENTS SONG
Words by Julius Robins, M.D. ’36
Music by Henry M. Colby

Moderato

The Bison is King
Words and Music by Herbert H. Williams, M.D. ’39

Chorus

Come a-bong, Bison, Bison
The Bison is King of them all, Bison

1939 Song Book
Meredith Willson’s *Buffalo Fight Song* was commissioned in 1960 by Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development, Dr. Edgar B. Cale to replace Robert Mols’ *Victory March* as the definitive fight song of the university. Robert Mols, then Associate Professor of music, had written his fight song only four years prior, but due to a lack of publicity it had not caught on with the students. Looking to boost school spirit, Cale contacted Willson, a composer known for his musical, *The Music Man*. Willson’s fight song was written especially for and premiered at a football game against West Point that same year. Later in the season, at a game against Youngstown, a contest was held for the student body to choose a fight song. While the band played each song, the students were invited to sing along and choose their favorite from the following songs:

1. Meredith Willson’s *Buffalo Fight Song*
2. Irving Cheyette and Edgar Cale’s *Go for a Touchdown*
3. Robert Mols’ *Victory March*
4. Jim Tranter’s *Keep Marching*

The Spectrum reported that Robert Mols’ piece was easier to sing and had a “true Buffalo fight song caliber” whereas Willson’s piece was only possible when performed by professional musicians. The *Buffalo Bills*, a barbershop quartet native to Buffalo and made famous by Willson’s *The Music Man* recorded Willson’s fight song with the Arthur Godfrey band. The records were sold at the homecoming game.
In 1906, the Buffalo Courier announced the premiere of two new songs to be performed at a University of Buffalo Theater Party. The first was entitled *University Hymn of Praise* and the second *Alma Mater Farewell*. The music to both songs was composed by Clara E. Thoms and the words were written by Alice R. Bennett, an 1890 graduate of the University at Buffalo Medical School. Bennett also composed the song *BUFFALO* which was later included in the 1939 Song Book.

**Robert Mols** composed *Victory March* in 1956. It was played at the beginning and end of football games as well as each time the team scored. For some time, the original lyrics had been believed to be lost and, in 2000, Robert Mols was asked to rewrite them. Upon presenting the new lyrics to University President William R. Greiner, it was discovered that the old lyrics had been in the possession of the President’s wife. She declared that she liked the new lyrics better.
Robert Mols
Courtesy of University Archives
Set to a melody by Lou Breese, the University of Buffalo Football Song, was written by Talman Van Arsdale Jr. Arsdale received his BA in 1938, his MA in 1940, and his PhD in higher education in 1954, all from the University of Buffalo. He also was Director of Alumni Relations from 1948-1954 and participated as a judge in the 1956 song contest. Breese fronted his own orchestra, played the banjo, and hosted a popular radio show in the 1930’s and 1940’s.
Walter A. Boehm composed the *U. of B. Forever March* for piano, guitar, and two mandolins. He directed and was an active member in the University’s Mandolin Club. He was also a teacher, publisher, composer, and a Gibson instrument dealer in the city of Buffalo.
1902 Mandolin and Glee Club
Seated second row, second through fourth person, L to R: Walter Boehm, Director; Walter Goodale, General Manager; Samuel Botsford, Business Manager
Courtesy of University Archives

**Go for a Touchdown** was written by *Irving Cheyette* and set to music by *Dr. Edgar B. Cale*. Cheyette was a composer and violinist. He joined the Music Department faculty in 1955 and helped to develop the now-defunct music education program. Cale was Vice Chancellor for University Development.
GO FOR A TOUCHDOWN

(University of Buffalo fight song)

Words: Dr. Irving Chezette
Professor of Music

Music: Dr. Edgar Colby,
Vice-President for University Development

Go for a touchdown Till the foe's men's line, Fight! Fight!

Ball up the score boys. Now, U. S. will shine, Fight! Fight!

Pile up the yardage. Forward against the foe, Fight! Fight!

Let them know they played against mighty Blue of Buf- falo Team. The
Kirk Barton, quarterback of the Buffalo Bulls, going for a touchdown

Courtesy of University Archives