University Songs
1903-2008

SONG BOOK

PUBLISHED BY THE
UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO
1916

Co-curated by Jason Imbesi & Molly O’Brien
CASE 1

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

(1929, Courtesy of University Archives)

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

(1925, Courtesy of University Archives)

3
THE BELLS OF ST. MARY'S
The Bells of St. Mary's, Ah! hear they are calling
The young loves—the true loves who come from the sea.

And so, my beloved, when red leaves are falling
The love-bells shall ring out—Ring out for you and me.

(1907, Courtesy of University Archives)

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.

(1947, 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 branch where undisturbed doors have stood,
Where martyrs brought the faith and patriot souls,
Assembled oft to speak form binding bonds.

(Chorus)
Brothers tonight we sing the chorus true,
Pledging the health of our University,
To U. of B., to U., of B.,
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 many's still loth to linger.
Our friendship, that ever shall last
While Time, with the tip of his finger,
Turns softly the page of the past.

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

Then sing we her praises forever;
The fabled old Him and the White;
She is crowned with immortal splendor
And covered with laces of the right.
A song then for old Alma Mater
We wait to the Angels on high
From hearts that have never forgot her
The years may have long since passed by.

IN U-BEHMA HALL
Tune (it Bohemian Hall)
In Science Hall, in Science Hall,
Where Julian Bash is king.
By Science Hall they are strange all,
If they don't build a wall.
For they need about their ears,
They're crowded in the doors,
And they can't give a home for 463
In Science Hall.

In Medie Hall, in Medie Hall,
Where Semen Jones is king.
In Medie Hall, so I read,
They smoke and burn they sing.
To stop it no one's able,
Like it on the table.
They don't give a canoe for any old man
In Medie Hall.

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

In Dentists Hall, in Dentists Hall,
Where Davey Spivey is king.
In Dentists Hall, they fill them all,
They hurt, you care, they sting.
Oh the patches dear "pasta,
That kind they should disable.
For they don't give a canoe for any old man
In Dentists Hall.

In Foster Hall, in Foster Hall,
Where Wrenner is king.
They mix them all, but no high hall
The Fitz, the pop, the singer.
With a small just like a stick
To dance them no one's able
For the dope they eat, kills any old man
In Foster Hall.
Buffalo

Arranged from Franz, University Div., 1916.

I sought the tugboat in my town
BUFFALO,
My strength could not withstand the storm.
BUFFALO.

The job was done I learned to say
"What did you so well after the war?"
BUFFALO.

I went one day to make my will
BUFFALO.
My lawyer did the work with skill
BUFFALO.

As I paid the tax, "Dear Sir," said I,
"For the fee when did you qualify?"
BUFFALO.

He smiled and promptly did reply
BUFFALO.
A dearst man — no afraid to work
BUFFALO.
A flash of look, relief then worth
BUFFALO.

"O, Thanks!" said I. "But whose deep heart,
BUFFALO.
How could one tell your distant past?"
BUFFALO.

I stared and answered with a start
BUFFALO.
The turnpike — I had one right
BUFFALO.
The doctor came and set me right
BUFFALO.

But "Old man, in the name of you,
BUFFALO.
How did you get your good health?"
BUFFALO.

Now when I'm dead and laid out cold
BUFFALO.
If I ask the undertaker told
BUFFALO.

BUFFALO. Where did you leave your work?
BUFFALO.
I hope we find him with a cork
BUFFALO.
Halely the old sink,
BUFFALO.
"BUFFALO."
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.
No. 32 Brass Band Score
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.
The Marching Band performs the "UB Victory March" when the football team scores and at the beginning and at the end of the game. The words to the UB fight song were lost for the past 40 years. However, this year the UB Marching Band contacted composer Dr. Mols to recover the words.

Verse 1
Fight, fight for Buffalo
Be proud to fight for your dear Blue and White
So Hit 'em high . . . Hit 'em Low
Throw 'em high . . . Throw 'em low
Fight for your dear old Bulls

Verse 2
Cheer, cheer for Buffalo
Our spirit will be with you 'til the end
So play the game as best you can
For the glory of our dear Buffalo

You can join the Band by chanting as they play UB's fight song, "Victory March". During the song, chant:

"GO BULLS GO!"

The song is played one time through - then chant:

"B-U-clap-clap-F-F-clap-clap-A-L-clap-clap-O-clap-GO!"

The song repeats, then chant:

"GO BULLS, GO BULLS, GO BULLS, GO UB!"
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.
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 Chasins
Composer of Music

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

Go for a touchdown, till the seven-man's line, Fight!

Roll up the score boys, now U. B. will shine, Fight!

Pile up the yard-age, far against the foe, Fight!

Let them know they played against mighty Blue of Buf-falo Team.

University at Buffalo Marching Band
Courtesy of University Archives
Kirk Barton, quarterback of the Buffalo Bulls, going for a touchdown

Courtesy of University Archives