

## **PI KAPPA LAMBDA, RECORDS OF, 1918-2003**

**Series 55/41**

**Boxes 1-4**

### **History**

Pi Kappa Lambda, a national honor society in music, was founded in 1918 at Northwestern University. The previous year, the Alumni Association of the School of Music had appointed a committee to explore the possibility of forming a national honor society in music. Committee members were alumni and faculty members Walter Allen Stults (Music 1909, later Chair of the Vocal Department and first President of the Society), Louis Norton Dodge (Music 1903, Professor of Piano and Theory) and Carl M. Beecher (Music 1908, later Dean of the School of Music). Upon discovering that there was no national honor society for students of music, the committee recommended that the School of Music take the initiative. Their recommendation was accepted the following year when the Alpha Chapter of Pi Kappa Lambda was founded at Northwestern University. The Greek letters Pi Kappa Lambda were chosen to honor long-time Dean and founder of the School of Music, Peter Christian Lutkin.

The mission of the Society as stated in 1918 was to promote “high scholarship in musical institutions and to give recognition to students of marked ability that have maintained a consistently high record in their work.” The Society’s members included a small number of students from the graduating class of the School, alumni who achieved important careers in music, and honorary members chosen for their distinguished musical careers. This mission and membership policy have changed only slightly over the years. The Society’s current statement of its mission reads: “The primary purpose of PKL is the recognition and encouragement of the highest level of musical achievement and academic scholarship.” The Society also now allows college juniors with high academic performance and graduate students to become members.

The growth of the Society took place slowly but steadily through the 1960s. In the early years, chapters were often formed by Northwestern School of Music graduates at the institutions in which they were currently employed. The Society was careful to focus on schools that had fully developed programs in professional music education and only accepted members who exhibited a high achievement in music. By 1937 there were sixteen chapters of the Society. By 1967 there were sixty-five chapters. It is today one of the largest national honor societies in music, with 181 chapters.

The Society is governed by Biennial Conventions to which each chapter may send a voting delegate. The Board of Regents, composed of past presidents and officers elected at the biennial conventions, conducts the regular business of the Society. The Secretary-Treasurer is in charge of the national office of the Society. For many years the national office was located at Northwestern University.

In addition to its general work to promote excellence in music scholarship and performance, the Society has also undertaken several national projects and its local chapters offer various programs in line with this overall mission. National projects have included publishing works of music scholarship (in partnership with Northwestern University Press) and conducting a national opera competition.

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**Description of the Series**

The records of Pi Kappa Lambda fill four boxes, including one half-size box, and span the dates 1918 to 2003. The bulk of the materials dates from the years (1984-2000) that Liliias Circle (who donated the collection) served as Secretary-Treasurer. As Secretary-Treasurer, Circle kept not only the current records of the Society, but also what remained of the Society's historical records. This series includes historical materials relating to the founding and early years of the Society; minutes of governing meetings; secretary's and president's correspondence; financial and membership records; and materials regarding the projects and publications undertaken by the Society.

Historical materials include a 1937 history and an undated handbook that describe the founding and early growth of the society. A copy of the articles of incorporation as well as drafts from various years of the ceremonies for installation of new chapters and inductions of members are also included. Duplicates of index cards from 1963 and 1964 list chapter presidents and secretaries. The manual of operation describes the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer in the day-to-day running of the national office.

Minutes that record the meetings of the Board of Regents, Biennial Conventions and Executive Sessions of the Society offer information regarding various issues the Society faced through the years and decisions that were made by these governing bodies. Secretary's reports are year-end reports regarding the execution of the secretary's duties.

Correspondence mainly consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence from the years that Liliias Circle served as Secretary-Treasurer. One file of general correspondence includes letters on various subjects. Subject correspondence is arranged alphabetically in separate folders following Circle's arrangement of these records. Several of these folders contain correspondence with current and past presidents of the Society or members of the Board of Regents. One folder consists of correspondence relating to the Society's membership in the American Association of College Honor Societies. One folder contains correspondence regarding the nomination and honoring of exemplary chapters of the Society.

Financial records include ledgers dating from the founding of the Society through 1943. These ledgers contain records of the income and expenses of the Society and also contain early membership records. Annual audit reports from the 1930s through the 1990s are included in these records. Several additional folders contain correspondence regarding the audits, not-for-profit annual reports and trust account reports.

Membership records are contained in two folders, one containing correspondence and one containing tallies from elections.

Programs and projects folders consist of materials relating to the Society's biennial conventions and materials regarding the competitions the Society held. The biennial conventions folders

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contain correspondence, program packets and lists of delegates from the various chapters. The competitions materials consist of one folder of general correspondence regarding the competitions; one folder regarding the winner of the Opera competition, *Outcast of Poker Flats*; and one folder regarding the chamber music competition.

Publications folders contain materials relating to publications projects undertaken by the Society. Correspondence with Northwestern University Press regarding these projects, as well as contracts and royalty statements are included. The materials are divided into folders for each of the three publications, with general folders followed by folders relating to the gifts of the publications to various libraries and reviews of the publications.

One miscellaneous folder contains the transcript of an oral history interview with composer Howard Hanson (Music 1916, Honorary Doctorate 1925).

Materials in each folder are arranged chronologically by date, with undated materials at the back of the folder.

**Provenance:** The records of Pi Kappa Lambda were transferred to the University Archives in one donation by Lilius Circle on December 30, 2003, Accession Number 04-7. In addition, materials from the University Archives general files were incorporated into this collection.

**Restrictions:** None.

**Separations:** Three inches of duplicate and extraneous materials were discarded. One hundred and eighty-one photographs were separated and placed in the photograph files in the University Archives.

**Processor:** Lori J. Osborne; February 2004.

**Reformatted by:** Rachel C. Teuer; August 10, 2004.

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**Container List**

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
<b>HISTORY</b>			
1	1	Historical Booklet	1937
	2	Handbook	n.d.
	3	Articles of Incorporation – Copy	1918
	4	“Scholarship and the Musician”	n.d.
	5	Installation of New Chapters Ceremony	1970, n.d.
	6	Induction of New Members Ceremony	1961-1970
	7	Index Cards (Duplicates) – Chapter Presidents	1963-1964
	8	Index Cards (Duplicates) – Chapter Secretaries	1963-1964
	9	Manual of Operation	1979
	10	Certificate of Distinction	2000
	11	Clippings	1918
<b>MINUTES</b>			
	12	Board of Regents	1980-2000
	13	Biennial Conventions	1958-1991
	14	Executive Sessions	1971-1991
	15	Secretary’s Reports	1974-1980
<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>			
	16	General	1978-1993
	17	American Association of College Honor Societies	1995-2002
	18	Robert Blocker	1986-1998
	19	Board of Regents Candidates	1991-1999, n.d.
	20	David Boe	1981-1989
	21	Exemplary Chapters	1989-1996
2	1	Wilbur Fulbright	1988-1993
	2	Don Gibson	1995-1998
	3	Robert Glidden	1982-1996
	4	Honorary Members	1959-2003
	5	Tom Miller	1975-1995
	6	National Association of Schools of Music	1989-2001
<b>FINANCIAL RECORDS</b>			
	7	Ledger	1919-1929
	8	Ledger	1929-1943
	9	Audit Reports	1930-1943
	10	Audit Reports	1943-1979

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2	11	Audit Reports	1983-1994
3	1	Audit Reports	1995-1999
	2	Audit Correspondence	1990-2003
	3	Not-for-Profit Annual Reports	1964-2000
	4	Financial Reports	1985-2002
	5	Trust Account	1962-1996
<b>MEMBERSHIP RECORDS</b>			
	6	Correspondence	1989-1999
	7	Election Tallies	1994-1999
<b>PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS</b>			
	8	Biennial Convention Correspondence	1968-1999
	9	Biennial Convention – Packets	1960-2001
	10	Biennial Convention – Delegates	1967-1999
	11	Competitions – Correspondence	1958-1960
	12	Competitions – <i>Outcast of Poker Flats</i>	1960-1963
	13	Competitions – Chamber Music	1998
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>			
	14	Correspondence – General	1966
	15	Northwestern University Press – Correspondence	1965-1979
	16	Northwestern University Press – Contracts	1965-1978
	17	Northwestern University Press – Royalty Statements	1967-1988
4	1	<i>Andrew Law, American Psalmist</i>	1975-1990
	2	<i>Andrew Law, American Psalmist</i> – Gifts	1968-1969
	3	<i>Andrew Law, American Psalmist</i> – Reviews	1969
	4	<i>The Anthem in New England Before 1800</i>	1962-1978
	5	<i>The Anthem in New England Before 1800</i> – Gifts	1966-1967
	6	<i>The Anthem in New England Before 1800</i> – Reviews	1966-1967
	7	<i>Music in the Cultured Generation</i>	1970-1984
	8	<i>Music in the Cultured Generation</i> – Reviews	1971-1972
	9	Newsletter	1988
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
	10	Transcript: interview with Howard Hanson	1978