Pate, Martha, Collection, 1904-1986

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Pate, Martha, Collection, MS 150

Martha Pate Collection

Collection Number  MS 150

Title  The Martha Pate Collection

Name and Location of Repository  Pittsburg State University, Special Collections & University Archives, Pittsburg, Kansas

Dates  1904-1986

Collection Size  2.5 linear feet

Creator  The materials in the Martha Pate collection were donated between April of 2011 and March of 2015 by Betsy Oehme, Pate’s daughter.

Scope and Content  Martha Pate was a music professor at Pittsburg State University and the organist-director at the Methodist Church in Pittsburg. This collection contains correspondence, school and professional work, programs, materials from professional organizations, religious materials, programs and information about various types of organs and the companies that produced them.

Access Restrictions  This collection is open for access

Languages  English

Biographical Note  Martha I. Wimp was born on December 6, 1908 to Frank and Bessie Wimp in Downs, Kansas. At six years of age, Martha’s family moved to Pittsburg, Kansas, where she would live the rest of her life. Martha began taking piano lessons in Pittsburg. She was quick learner and began giving lessons herself to other students while still in grade school. She continued these lessons throughout her time as student, so she could afford college. Just before Martha graduated from Pittsburg High School in 1926, she began playing the organ at the local Methodist Church. She eventually began the organist-director and held this position for 54 years before retiring in 1980. After her retirement, the Methodist Church established a music scholarship in honor of Martha Pate at Pittsburg State University. After high school, Pate attended Pittsburg State University, then known as Kansas State Teacher’s College, and obtained a bachelor of science in music, and then her master’s degree in music. She was a music professor at PSU for 27 years, teaching piano, harpsichord, and organ. During her career, Martha performed in Europe, including the Netherlands, Germany, and France. She also studied under famed organist, E. Power Biggs. Pate was a member of the American Organ Guild and the Methodist Church. Martha married Robert L. Pate on June 24, 1928 in Pittsburg. Together, they had two daughters, Betsy and Susan. Martha died on August 12, 1986.
Series
The Correspondence series contains letters that are both professional and personal. Most of the letters are to either Pate or her husband and the rest of them mention Pate by name. This collection is organized chronologically, with undated letters at the back.

The Pittsburg State University series consists of materials related to when Pate was a student and a professor at PSU. Several notebooks from different music classes make up the bulk of this series.

The Professional Organizations series includes materials from the American Guild of Organists, the American Musicological Society, the Music Library Association, the University Composers Exchange, the Organ Historical Society, and the Kansas Conference Music Workshop. This series is arranged chronologically.

The Programs series contains programs of concerts. The programs are divided up into three categories: performances that feature Pate; performances that do not feature Pate; and musical theatre. This series is arranged chronologically and alphabetically for musical theatre.

The Religious Materials series includes programs and publications from religious organizations. This series is arranged chronologically.

The Organ series consists of materials related to organs, organists, or music for organs. There are pamphlets, programs, and booklets about companies who manufacture organs. This series is arranged by alphabetically.

The Other Instruments series consists of information about the care of harpsichords, and other instruments.

The Music series contains bound and loose sheet music. Most of the music is written for vocal ensembles, and is church music. This series is organized chronologically.

The Biographies of Musicians series consist of biographies of seven organists and a pianist. This is series is organized chronologically.

The Educational Materials series includes materials pertaining to the teaching of music to children. This series is arranged chronologically with undated at the back.

The Magazines series consist of various music magazines that Pate collected during her life. This series is arranged alphabetically and then chronologically.

The Articles series contains articles about music of different time periods; the musical instruments and how they work together in different pieces; individual pieces of music; and certain types of music. This series is arranged chronologically.

The Clippings series includes clippings about Pate, organs, concerts, styles of music, and opinion pieces. This series is arranged chronologically with undated clippings at the back.

The Photographs series includes photographs that are undated with unidentified individuals. There is one picture of Pate from 1937 in the front of the folder.
The **Miscellaneous** series includes a sign-up sheet for Martha Pate Day; a biography of Samuel James Pease; a book of poems called *In Slippery Places* by Judy Little; souvenirs from historical places; materials about Kansas; and a book about band and dance routines.

The **Oversized** series contains a guide book for church musicians; oversized sheet music; blueprints for the organ in McCray Hall; oversized covers for *Etude: The Music Magazine*, and several framed photographs and certificates.

**Folder List**

**Correspondence**

f. 1 1937-1976; Undated

Pittsburg State University

v. 1 Notebook for Music Appreciation
v. 2 Notebook for Music History
v. 3 Notebook for Contemporary Music (1961)
v. 4 Notebook for a music class (1961)
v. 5 Notebook for Historical Anthology of Music (1961)

**Professional Organizations**

f. 5 Materials from the American Guild of Organists
f. 6 Publications from the American Guild of Organists

Fall Meetings for the American Musicological Society and the Music Library Association
Annual Festival for the University Composers Exchange
National Convention for the Organ Historical Society
Kansas Conference Music Workshop
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Programs
f. 7 Martha Pate (1930-1971)
f. 8 1904-1959
f. 9 1960-1969
f. 10 1970-1980; Undated; Program Notes
f. 11 Musical Theatre

Religious Material
f. 12 Service Programs (1954-1980)
   Programs about new church organs
   Pate's retirement announcement
f. 13 Music and the choir in church
   Religious publications
f. 14 Religious publications

Organ
f. 15 Organ Companies
f. 16 Organ Companies
f. 17 Publications about Organs
f. 18 Organ Music
f. 19 Organ Music

Other Instruments
f. 20 Harpsichord
   The Woodwind Family

Music
f. 21 Sheet Music, 1903-1938
v. 7 Sheet Music, 1933
f. 22 Sheet Music, 1941-1957
f. 23 Sheet Music, 1960-1967
f. 24 Sheet Music 1970-1979; Undated
f. 25 Sheet Music, Undated

Biographies of Musicians
f. 26 Robert Anderson
   Ludwig van Beethoven
   Nadia Boulanger
   Peter Hurford
   Ned Rorem
   Giuseppe Verdi
   Glad Robinson Youse
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Educational Materials
f. 27 NBC Music Appreciation Hour (1933-1934)
   Exploring Music
   Some Reflections on Piano Playing by Phillip (Isidor Phillip)
   Scale chart for piano

Magazines

   *The American Organist* Vol. 47 no. 11 – Vol. 48 no. 7
   *Etude: The Music Magazine* Vol. 69 no. 6, 9; Vol. 70 no. 5, 6; Vol. 74 no. 9 (1951-1952; 1956)
   *The Harmonizer* Vol. 5 no. 1; Vol. 6 no. 1, 4; Vol. 7 no. 1, 2 Vol. 13 no. 1, 4 (1945-1947; 1954)
   *Keyboard Classics: The Magazine You Can Play* Vol. 6 no. 2; Vol. 7 no. 2-6 (1986-1987)
   *Music Literature Outlines* Series III, V; Series I, II (1955; 1958)
   *Sheet Music* Vol. 6 no. 6; Vol. 7 no. 6 – Vol. 8 no. 4; Vol. 9 no. 6, 8 – Vol. 10 no. 6 (1983-1986)

Articles
f. 28 Published Articles (1931-1977)
   Unpublished Articles
   Partial Articles

Clippings
f. 29 1937-1974; Undated

Photographs
f. 30 Undated

Miscellaneous
f. 31 Martha Pate Day Sign Up
   Biography of Samuel James Pease
   *In Slippery Places* by Judy Little
   Souvenirs from historical places
   Organ necessities
   Materials about Kansas
f. 32 Pom-Pom Band and Dance Routines (3x)
   Handwritten notes
   A paper in German
   Grade card
   Scratch pieces of paper
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Calendar
Empty folder

Oversized

f. 33  Loose pages from the Guideposts for Church Musicians
Framed Portraits
Certificate- Martha Pate Day, May 16, 1976
Martha Pate at the Organ, n.d.
Robert Pate (3 separate portraits, one a pencil drawing)
Several smaller vignettes- angels; composers; a cathedral; unidentified men
Signed, small photograph from composer Carl Busch