OCTAVIA GREENE LANDERS
PAPERS, CA. 1906–2005

Collection Information

Biographical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

Paul Brockman
February 2013

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes; 1 box photographs; 2 folders color photographs; 1 OVB photograph folder.

COLLECTION DATES: ca. 1906–2005

PROVENANCE: Joanne Landers Henry, 2577 West Church St, Eden, NY 14057, 2007, 2013

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2007.0129; 2013.0014

NOTES:
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Octavia Green(e) Landers (1905–1999) was born in Indianapolis, Indiana and graduated from Shortridge High School in 1922. After graduation she was employed as a telephone operator while embarking on a lifelong career in the playing and teaching of music. An accomplished violinist, she taught music in her home shortly after her marriage to Delver H. Landers on 1 September 1925 and left her job with the telephone company. Landers continued to give private lessons, expanding her studio to rooms in the Marion Building. In 1943 she began working for RCA in radio and engineering and thought of pursuing a career in this field. She applied to the engineering program at Purdue University in 1944, but left RCA and Purdue in 1945 when she was approached by the Indiana State School for the Blind to become a music teacher. Landers served as the music teacher for the Blind School from 1945–1960. While continuing to teach, Landers also attended Butler University working on her bachelor’s degree in music, which she obtained in 1958.

Octavia Landers left her job with the School for the Blind in 1960 to accept a position as music teacher at Indianapolis Public School #45. She retired briefly in 1967, but came back for one more year in 1968. After her retirement, Landers continued to be active in the music community as well as taking up a new hobby in photography. In 1990 she moved to Eden, New York and remained there until her death.

Sources:
Information in collection.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The majority of the collection contains information and correspondence regarding Octavia Greene Landers career in music and as a music teacher.

Items from the 1920s and 1930s include programs, photographs, correspondence, printed materials and student’s record ledgers regarding her early career as a performer and teacher. Materials from the 1940s and 1950s deal with Landers’ teaching career at the Indiana State School for the Blind (1945–1960) and her pursuit of a degree from the Jordan College of Music at Butler University (1945–1958.) Among the materials from the Blind School are photographs, programs, a scrapbook, newspaper clipping, and correspondence. There are also correspondence and related items regarding two of her pupils, Forrest Goodenough and Richard Wright. Butler University items include student records, class information, newspaper clippings, correspondence, performance programs, and membership in the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Materials from Landers’ time with Indianapolis Public School #45 include, documents, personal records, printed materials and correspondence, 1960–1968.

Materials from Sigma Alpha Iota Music School Fraternity include programs, yearbooks, correspondence and newspaper clippings, 1938–1995. Photo Venture Club items include correspondence, programs from shows, newspaper clippings and general club information. There is also a small amount of personal items including photographs, correspondence and Landers’ obituaries and funeral information.
### SERIES CONTENTS

#### Series 1: Youth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>CONTAINER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Octavia Greene, 1906; ca. 1910</td>
<td>Photographs:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Octavia Greene, With Viola, 1922</td>
<td>Photographs:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report cards, 1917–22</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper clipping regarding first Indiana radio station, 3 July 1988</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan School of Music certificate, 18 June 1924</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violin solos assigned by teacher Ella Schroeder</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Series 2: Marriage and Teaching

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>CONTAINER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence, 1924–25</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wedding announcement, 1925</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indianapolis Matinee Musicale calendars, 1923–26</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter from Ella Schroeder, 15 March 1927</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piano trio, ca. 1928–29</td>
<td>Photographs:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student program recitals, 1928–41</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper clippings, 1929–41</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence and greeting cards, 1920s–30s</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Teacher Materials, 1930s</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Music School, 1936
Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 4

Concert Programs, 1937–42
Box 1, Folder 13

Student Records, 1934–35 (Book 1)
Box 1, Folder 14

Student Records, 1935 (Book 2)
Box 1, Folder 15

Record Book, Private Lessons, 1940
Box 1, Folder 16

**Series 3: The War Years**

**CONTENTS**

Purdue University, 1944–45
Box 1, Folder 17

RCA Golf Tournament, 1945
Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 17

**Series 4: Indiana State School for the Blind**

**CONTENTS**

Indiana State School for the Blind, 1946–60
Box 1, Folder 19

Landers Talk, Music at Indiana School for the Blind, n.d;
Box 1, Folder 20

Scrapbook, 1940s
Box 3, Folder 1

Forrest Goodenough Correspondence, 1947–52
Box 1, Folder 21

Richard Wright, 1979–80
Box 1, Folder 22

Richard Wright Portrait, 1945
Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 7

Blind School Musicale, 1955
Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 8

School for the Blind Orchestra, 1956
Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 9

Blind School, Tower Smaers, 1956
Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 10
Blind School, Operetta, 1956
Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 11

Blind School, Banquet, 1955 (2 copies)
OVB Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

**Series 5: Shortridge High School Alumni**

CONTENTS
Shortridge Alumni, 1949; 1985
Box 1, Folder 23

**Series 6: Butler University**

CONTENTS
Butler University, 1945–58
Box 1, Folder 18

**Series 7: Indianapolis Public School #45**

CONTENTS
Indianapolis Public School #45, 1960–68
Box 1, Folder 24
Notes from Parents and Students, 1965–67
Box 1, Folder 25
Robert Frost School, Indianapolis, Grades 4 & 5, 1967–68
Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 12

**Series 8: Retirement**

CONTENTS
Activities and Correspondence, 1969–99
Box 2, Folder 1
76th Birthday, 24 February 1981
Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 12
50th Wedding Anniversary, 1991
Color Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1
Family Photographs, 1995
Color Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 2
Obituaries and Memorial Service, January, 1999
Box 2, Folder 2
### Series 9: Sigma Alpha Iota

**CONTENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>CONTAINER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sigma Alpha Iota, 1938–47</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sigma Alpha Iota, ca. 1940</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sigma Alpha Iota, 1947–95</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sigma Alpha Iota, Yearbooks, 1959–65</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mabel Claire Leive, ca. 1947</td>
<td>Photographs:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Series 10: Photo Venture Club

**CONTENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>CONTAINER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Photo Venture Club, 1978–95</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo Venture Club, 1990; 1995</td>
<td>Photographs:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: http://opac.indianahistory.org/

2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.

3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.

4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M0974).

5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.