

Collection #  
M O974

**OCTAVIA GREENE LANDERS  
PAPERS, CA. 1906–2005**

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Processed by

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February 2013

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## **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**

#### CONTENTS

Octavia Greene, 1906; ca. 1910

#### CONTAINER

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 1

Octavia Greene, With Viola, 1922

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 2

Report cards, 1917–22

Box 1, Folder 1

Newspaper clipping regarding first Indiana radio station, 3 July 1988

Box 1, Folder 2

Metropolitan School of Music certificate, 18 June 1924

Box 1, Folder 3

Violin solos assigned by teacher Ella Schroeder

Box 1, Folder 4

### **Series 2: Marriage and Teaching**

#### CONTENTS

Correspondence, 1924–25

#### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 5

Wedding announcement, 1925

Box 1, Folder 6

Indianapolis Matinee Musicale calendars, 1923–26

Box 1, Folder 7

Letter from Ella Schroeder, 15 March 1927

Box 1, Folder 8

Piano trio, ca. 1928–29

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 3

Student program recitals, 1928–41

Box 1, Folder 9

Newspaper clippings, 1929–41

Box 1, Folder 10

Correspondence and greeting cards, 1920s–30s

Box 1, Folder 11

Music Teacher Materials, 1930s

Box 1, Folder 12

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	Box1 , Folder 16

### **Series 3: The War Years**

#### CONTENTS

Purdue University, 1944–45

RCA Golf Tournament, 1945

#### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 17

Photographs:  
Box , Folder

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

#### CONTENTS

Indiana State School for the Blind, 1946–60

Landers Talk, Music at Indiana School for the Blind,  
n.d;

Scrapbook, 1940s

Forrest Goodenough Correspondence, 1947–52

Richard Wright, 1979–80

Richard Wright Portrait, 1945

Blind School Musicales, 1955

School for the Blind Orchestra, 1956

Blind School, Tower Smaers, 1956

#### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 19

Box1 , Folder 20

Box 3, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 21

Box 1, Folder 22

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 7

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 8

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 9

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

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 23

### **Series 6: Butler University**

CONTENTS

Butler University, 1945–58

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 18

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

CONTENTS

Indianapolis Public School #45, 1960–68

Notes from Parents and Students, 1965–67

Robert Frost School, Indianapolis, Grades 4 & 5,  
1967–68

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 24

Box 1, Folder 25

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 12

### **Series 8: Retirement**

CONTENTS

Activities and Correspondence, 1969–99

76<sup>th</sup> Birthday, 24 February 1981

50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, 1991

Family Photographs, 1995

Obituaries and Memorial Service, January, 1999

CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 1

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 12

Color Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 1

Color Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 2

Box 2, Folder 2

**Series 9: Sigma Alpha Iota**

CONTENTS

Sigma Alpha Iota, 1938–47

Sigma Alpha Iota, ca. 1940

Sigma Alpha Iota, 1947–95

Sigma Alpha Iota, Yearbooks, 1959–65

Mabel Claire Leive, ca. 1947

CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 3

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 5

Box 2, Folder 4

Box 2, Folder 5

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 13

**Series 10: Photo Venture Club**

CONTENTS

Photo Venture Club, 1978–95

Photo Venture Club, 1990; 1995

CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 6

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 14



## 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.