

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Music Department

**Title:** Pittsburgh Musical Institute Collection

Overview of the Collection

**Reference Code:** Pittsburgh Music Archive #54

**Creator:** Pittsburgh Music Institute; Charles N. Boyd

**Dates:** 1915-1955

**Language:** English

**Repository:**

Music Department, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Main Branch, 4400 Forbes Avenue,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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**Finding Aid Created by:** Joelle Killebrew

**Related Finding Aids:**

- Charles N. Boyd
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- Dallmeyer Russell
- William Wentzell

Notes on the Collection

**Historical Note**

Pittsburgh Music Institute (PMI) was founded in 1915 by four directors, Frank Milton Hunter, William H. Oetting, Charles N. Boyd, and Dallmeyer Russell. All four were from Western Pennsylvania. PMI welcomed students at all levels, from beginner to advanced, and all age levels, from kindergarten to post-graduate. PMI started by offering lessons in piano, voice, violin, organ and music theory. The school also trained music teachers (pedagogy). In addition to music lessons, students attended lectures on music

subjects and participated in regular recitals. Recitals were held in the school itself or at Carnegie Music Hall. Students could take classes for credit towards a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

The main school building was in the Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh and started with five smaller neighborhood branch studios in the city of Pittsburgh. By 1928, PMI had 30 branch studios in neighborhoods in Pittsburgh and surrounding Western PA towns, and offered courses in theory, harmony, ear training, counterpoint, history, teacher's classes, and ensemble, as well as private lessons. The school featured a PMI Chorus and Orchestra, and a series of programs that were broadcast on KDKA radio. Over the years, more courses of study were added, including dramatic expression, a master course in violin repertoire, band and orchestra, eurythmics and public speaking. Private lessons included voice, piano, organ, strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion.

PMI was an accredited member of the National Association of the Schools of Music. The school closed on December 23, 1961.

### **Scope and Content**

40 volumes; volumes 2 and 3 are bound together, and volumes 39 and 40 are bound together.

Bound into volumes:

- School catalogues with information about faculty, courses of study, tuition fees, school calendar, policies, lists of upcoming lectures
- Recital programs from students
- Recital programs from faculty
- Advertisement flyers and pamphlets for the school
- Postcards with teacher or school information
- Announcements from the school for events
- Pittsburgh Music Institute Bulletins – official publication with articles about the school
- Pamphlets with teacher biographies
- University of Pittsburgh bulletins
- Forms for admission, report cards, and other school forms
- Bulletins from the Chamber of Commerce of Pittsburgh
- Summer session catalogs
- Commencement programs