

Finding Aid for the WYSU-FM Records, 1965-2006



Collection Number: RG 42

Archives & Special Collections

William F. Maag, Jr. Library
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Descriptive Summary

Title: WYSU-FM Records, 1965-2006

Record No.: RG42

Accession No.: UA2005.60

Creator: WYSU-FM

Extent: 6 boxes, 8 cubic feet

Abstract: Since its first broadcast in 1969, WYSU-FM has provided fine arts public radio to Youngstown and the surrounding areas.

Administrative Information

Provenance: Offices of WYSU-FM, located at B066 Cushwa Hall, Youngstown State University

Preferred Citation: WYSU-FM Records, 1969-2006, RG42, Archives & Special Collections, William F. Maag, Jr. Library, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio.

Restrictions: Box 3, Folder 19
Box 5, Folder 34

Processing Information: Processed by Emily Lockhart, September 2006

Agency History

WYSU-FM is a fine arts radio station licensed to Youngstown State University. The station is 88.5 FM in Youngstown, 90.1 FM in Ashtabula, and 97.5 FM in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. It first broadcast on October 23, 1969. YSU planned the station for two years prior to the first broadcast. Bringing fine arts radio to Youngstown was the idea of faculty member Stephen Grcevich. Also involved in the station's launch were Dr. Albert L. Pugsley, university president, and Dr. John Coffelt, vice president for administration.

WYSU-FM defines its primary mission as being a cultural leader in the community. WYSU-FM provides fine arts radio programming and is also a source of news and information, neither of which are generally provided by commercial radio. About 60 percent of the programming is classical music. The station also acts as a daily representative of Youngstown State University, with the possibility to reach more people on a given day than all other university activities combined. WYSU-FM promotes the artistic and educational activities of the university.

Throughout its history, WYSU-FM continually kept up with changing technologies to provide better service to its listeners. During January of 1980, the station changed from telephone wire transmission to satellite. This switch provided more options and improved quality for National Public Radio programs transmitted into the station. In 1983, the station changed from 11-hour-a-day to 24-hour-a-day broadcasting. Programming included Youngstown State University Dana School of Music concerts and recitals, National Public Radio news and special topics, and local discussions and current events. Public service announcements for YSU were also part of the daily programming. Originally, the audience included western Pennsylvania and northeastern Ohio. With additional transmitting towers, the area increased to northern West Virginia. During 1993, a translator was placed in Ashtabula, Ohio, to reach a community that had previously been underserved by public radio. WYSU-FM began broadcasting over the internet in 2000, making programming accessible throughout the world.

The studio and offices were previously housed in a former motel, the Valley Motor Inn, which was later torn down. The studio and offices moved to Cushwa Hall in the spring of 1977. The station operates with a full-time professional staff but also employs qualified students. The first station director was Stephen Grcevich who served in that position from 1969 to 1985. Robert W. Peterson was named successor in 1985 and held the position until his death in 2000. Peterson worked as program manager, producer, and announcer during his long-term employment. Under Peterson's directorship, the station increased coverage area, transmitting power, fundraising, and underwriting revenue by significant amounts. Gary Sexton's appointment as the third director came in 2000.

In addition to radio broadcasting, Youngstown State University is part of the public television consortium NETO (Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc.). YSU, Kent State University, and The University of Akron, through NETO, own and operate PBS 45 & 49. WNEO/PBS 45 was launched in 1971 and serves the Youngstown viewing area. WEAO/PBS 49, established in 1974, serves the cities of Cleveland, Akron, and Canton. The mission of NETO and PBS 45 & 49 is to use the powerful medium of television to teach, illuminate, and inspire.¹

WYSU-FM continues to be an integral part of the YSU campus. Under the direction of Gary Sexton, WYSU-FM continues to provide classical music, national news, and local information. The staff holds pledge drives and fundraisers and is moving toward digital

¹ In addition to the "Television" Subject Files in this collection, information about the consortium was found at PBS 45 & 49 at www.pbs.4549.org/facts.htm.

broadcasting to improve quality and service. WYSU-FM's website is located at <http://wysu.org>.

Scope and Content Note

The records were transferred to the University Archives from the offices of WYSU-FM during 2005. The files maintained the original organization when they were processed, and the documents are arranged chronologically.

The largest part of the collection contains the subject files, which provide information on various projects, people, and internal affairs of WYSU-FM from 1965 to 2004. Some of the major projects include installing additional transmitters, becoming involved in television, and bringing the national radio program "Whad 'Ya Know" to Youngstown. People represented in the subject files are: past presidents of YSU, former station director Robert Patterson, and Congressman Charles Carney. Internal affairs involve WYSU-FM's five year plan, mission statement, and advisory committee.

The collection also contains a substantial amount of photographs of WYSU-FM personnel. There is a compact disc copy of the first broadcast October 23, 1969. In addition, the collection contains printed materials and correspondence. A series of newspaper clippings and news releases include information from 1969 to 2000, although not every year is represented. The Teacher's Guides in the collection were designed to bring music and education together.

The program guides make up another large part of the collection. These guides detail special events, feature articles, and show daily broadcast schedules. The guides evolved from seasonal brochures to monthly booklets to glossy magazines and are currently bi-monthly booklets. The program guides are arranged chronologically by year from 1972 to 2006, although it is not a complete set. As current program guides are produced by WYSU-FM, they will be added to the collection.

Series Description

Series I:	Correspondence
Series II:	Program Guides
Series III:	Subject Files
Series IV:	Printed Materials
Series V:	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases
Series VI:	Photographs
Series VII:	Teacher's Guides
Series VIII:	Facilities
Series IX:	Audio Recordings

Related Materials

None

Index Terms

Radio stations
Radio and music
National Public Radio (U.S.)
Youngstown State University
Radio broadcasting – Ohio – Youngstown
WYSU (Radio station: Youngstown, Ohio)
Public Broadcasting Service (U.S.)
Public television -- Ohio

Key Terms

Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio
Stephen Grcevich
Robert W. Patterson
Gary Sexton

BOX 1:

SERIES I: CORRESPONDENCE

Folder	Content
1	Invitation, 21 Oct 1979
2	Letter, 9 Feb 2001
3	Listeners, 1972-1974
4	Listeners, 1975-1976, undated
5	Listeners, 1983, 1985-1987, 1989, 1994, 1996, 2002, undated
6	General, 1969, 1985-1987, 1994, undated
7	Outgoing, 1982-1983, 1986-1987

SERIES II: PROGRAM GUIDES

Folder	Content
8	Program Guides, 1972
9	Program Guides, 1973
10	<i>WYSU-FM</i> , 1974
11	<i>WYSU-FM</i> , 1975
12	<i>WYSU-FM</i> , 1976
13	<i>WYSU-FM</i> , 1977
14	<i>WYSU-FM</i> , 1978
15	<i>WYSU-FM & WYSU</i> , 1979

16	<i>WYSU, 1980</i>
17	<i>WYSU, 1982</i>
18	<i>WYSU, 1983</i>
19	<i>WYSU & Program Listing, 1984</i>
20	<i>Program Listing, 1986</i>
21	<i>Program Listing & 12th Note, 1987</i>
22	<i>Program Listing & 12th Note, 1988</i>
23	<i>12th Note, 1989</i>
24	<i>12th Note, Jan-Jun 1990</i>
25	<i>12th Note, Jul-Dec 1990</i>
26	<i>12th Note, Jan-Jun 1991</i>
27	<i>12th Note, Jul-Dec 1991</i>
28	<i>12th Note, Jan-Jun 1992</i>
29	<i>12th Note, Jul-Dec 1992</i>
30	<i>12th Note & Speed of Sound, Jan-Jun 1993</i>
31	<i>Speed of Sound, Jul-Dec 1993</i>
32	<i>Speed of Sound, Jan-Jun, 1994</i>
33	<i>12th Note, Jul-Dec, 1994</i>

BOX 2:

SERIES II: PROGRAM GUIDES

Folder	Content
1	<i>12th Note, Jan-Jun, 1995</i>
2	<i>12th Note, Jul-Dec, 1995</i>
3	<i>12th Note, Jan-Jun, 1996</i>
4	<i>12th Note, Jul-Dec, 1996</i>
5	<i>12th Note, 1997</i>
6	<i>12th Note, 1998</i>
7	<i>12th Note, 1999</i>
8	<i>12th Note, 2000</i>
9	<i>12th Note, 2001</i>
10	<i>12th Note, 2002</i>
11	<i>12th Note, 2003</i>
12	<i>12th Note, 2004</i>
13	<i>12th Note, 2005</i>
14	<i>12th Note, 2006</i>
15	<i>12th Note, 2007</i>

SERIES III: SUBJECT FILES

Folder	Content
16	Ashtabula Translator Project, Application Data, 1992
17	Ashtabula Translator Project, General, 1991-2000
18	Charles Carney, 1971-1977

- 19 Channel 27 Translator, Correspondence, 1969-1989
- 20 Channel 27 Translator, Miscellaneous, 1965-1974
- 21 Channel 27 Translator, Miscellaneous, 1975-1995

BOX 3:

SERIES III: SUBJECT FILES

Folder	Content
1	Channel 58, 1975-1978
2	Leslie Cochran, 1992-1997
3	John J. Coffelt, 1969-1980
4	Commentary Café, 1996-2001
5	Financial Reports, 1983-1988
6	Financial Reports, 1990-1992
7	Financial Reports, 1993-June 1999
8	Financial Reports, July 1999-2003
9	Neil Humphrey, 1988
10	Lawrence Looby, Correspondence, 1988-1989
11	Lawrence Looby, Correspondence, 1990-1992
12	Lawrence Looby, Miscellaneous, 1988-1991
13	Lorentz & Associates, 1968-1984
14	McBride Report, 1969-1988
15	Jim McCollum, Outgoing, 1993
16	Jim McCollum, Outgoing, 1994-1996
17	News Releases, 2 Oct 2001
18	Ohio News Bureau, 1991, 1995
19	Robert W. Peterson, Memories of, 1983-2002
	*Contains RESTRICTED folder

BOX 4:

SERIES III: SUBJECT FILES

Folder	Content
1	Policy, Radio Broadcasting, 1970, 1977
2	Public Records, Radio, 1968-1977
3	A.L. Pugsley, Correspondence, 1969-1973
4	RCA Corporation, Tower, 1981-1982
5	Satellite, 1978-May 1979
6	Satellite, Jun 1979-1984
7	Satellite, Radio, 1978-1982
8	Television, Consortium, 1970-1972
9	Television, Correspondence, 1969-1977
10	Television, Instructional, 1975
11	Television, Mobile Van, 1976
12	Television Center, Training Program, 1976-1978

- 13 Translator, Miscellaneous, Application Information, 1987
- 14 Translator, Miscellaneous, 1984-1996
- 15 Translator, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, 1994, 1996
- 16 Whad 'Ya Know, Car Rentals, 2002
- 17 Whad 'Ya Know, Check Lists, 2002
- 18 Whad 'Ya Know, Contacts, 2002
- 19 Whad 'Ya Know, Guest Lists, 2002
- 20 Whad 'Ya Know, Miscellaneous, 2002
- 21 Whad 'Ya Know, Powers Contract, 2001-2002
- 22 Whad 'Ya Know, Promotion, 2002
- 23 Whad 'Ya Know, Settlement, 2000-2002
- 24 Whad 'Ya Know, Technical Requirements, 2002
- 25 Whad 'Ya Know, Ticket Sales, 2002
- 26 WYSU-FM Advisory Committee, 1978-1988
- 27 WYSU-FM Advisory Committee, 1989-1995

BOX 5:

SERIES III: SUBJECT FILES

Folder	Content
1	WYSU-FM Five Year Plan, 1983-2004
2	WYSU-FM Mission Statement, 1998-2000
3	WYSU-FM Ownership Report, 1973
4	WYSU-FM Publicity, 1992, 1999, undated
5	Awards, 1972-1973
6	Thanksgiving Kickoff, undated

SERIES IV: PRINTED MATERIALS

Folder	Content
7	Brochures, 2004
8	Flyers, 2004
9	Window Stickers, undated

SERIES V: NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS & NEWS RELEASES

Folder	Content
10	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases, 1969
11	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases, 1977
12	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases, 1978
13	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases, 1979
14	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases, 1980
15	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases, 1981
16	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases, 1982
17	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases, 1983

18	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases, 1988
19	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases, 1991
20	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases, 1992
21	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases, 1993
22	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases, 1994
23	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases, 1995
24	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases, 1996
25	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases, 1997
26	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases, 1999
27	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases, 2000
28	Newspaper Clippings & News Releases, Undated

SERIES VI: PHOTOGRAPHS

Folder	Content
29	WYSU-FM Personnel, undated

SERIES VII: TEACHER'S GUIDES

Folder	Content
30	Teacher's Guides, 1995, undated

SERIES VIII: FACILITIES

Folder	Content
31	Correspondence, 1984-1987
32	Tower Lease, 1988-1990
33	Tower Relocation, 1972-1988
34	Tower Relocation, 1989-1990 *Contains RESTRICTED folder
35	Request for Space, 1993-1994

Box 6

SERIES IX: Audio Recordings

CD	Content
1	WYSU 88.5 First Broadcast, Oct 1969
2	YSU Wind Ensemble Winter, 12 Nov. 1973
3	YSU Wind Ensemble, 12 Nov 1973, 4 Mar 1974
4	YSU Ensemble, 1 Mar 1976, 19 Apr 1976
5	YSU Wind Ensemble, 17 May 1976
6	YSU Wind Ensemble, 17 May 1976, 15 Nov 1976
7	YSU Wind Ensemble, 4 May 1976, 16 May 1977
8	YSU Wind Ensemble, 16 May 1977
9	A & SC Wind YSU Ensemble composite tape, 1976-1977

- 10 YSU Wind Ensemble, 26 Feb 1979, 11 May 1985
- 11 YSU Wind Ensemble, 25 Feb 1985