

Finding Aid for the Youngstown State University Dana  
School of Music Records, 1897-2019



Collection Number: RG 15/12

University Archives & Special Collections

William F. Maag, Jr. Library  
Youngstown State University  
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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Title:</b>	Youngstown State University Dana School of Music Records, 1897-1995
<b>Record No.:</b>	RG 15/12
<b>Accession No.:</b>	UA 2005.3, UA 2005.29, UA 2005.30, UA 2005.32, UA 2005.45 and UA 2005.58
<b>Creator:</b>	Youngstown State University Dana School of Music
<b>Extent:</b>	14 boxes, 21.2 cubic feet
<b>Abstract:</b>	Formed by the 1941 merger of Dana's Musical Institute and the music department of Youngstown College, the Dana School of Music continues to be a strong presence on YSU's campus.

## Administrative Information

<b>Provenance:</b>	Numerous (See Scope and Content note)
<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	Youngstown State University Dana School of Music Records, 1897-1995, RG15/12, Archives & Special Collections, William F. Maag, Jr. Library, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio.
<b>Restrictions:</b>	Series I: Student transcripts, correspondence, and alumni records
<b>Processing Information:</b>	Processed by Amy J. Kyte, January 2006 materials added by Cassie Nespor February 2020

## Historical Background

In October 1869, William Henry Dana opened Dana's Musical Institute in a rented room on the corner of Market Street and Main Street in Warren, Ohio. From this beginning, Dana established a music school that withstood the test of time to become "one of the six oldest continuously functioning music schools in America."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Turk, John R. The Musical Danas of Warren, Ohio: The History of the Dana School of Music. Youngstown, Ohio: Dana Press of Youngstown State University, 1999? p. III.

After serving in the Civil War, Dana briefly attended the Williston Seminary in Massachusetts. He returned to Warren and worked with his father, Junius Dana, as a civil engineer. This career was short-lived. In 1867, he left Warren for Friendship, New York to study at the Allegany Academy of Music. After completing a three-year course in two years, he returned to Warren as a music professor.

Largely financed by his father, Dana immersed himself in his new school. Students were required to practice individually four hours a day in addition to a heavy regimen of course work and weekly performances. The goal of D.M.I., as the school came to be called, was to produce professional musicians. Numerous opera companies and concert bands offered employment across the country and the globe. As job opportunities arose, students dropped out of D.M.I., often returning when the job ended. While this fluidity worked well for students, it strapped the institute financially. Nevertheless, the school continued to provide an income for three generations of the Dana family.

In 1869 there were no governmental requirements for music schools. Dana was able to set up his curriculum, standards, and requirements as he saw fit. Yet, as the state became more involved in public education, the requirements for all schools, D.M.I. included, became more stringent. Ohio attached academic requirements to the musical curriculum that D.M.I. faculty were not accredited to teach. To provide them, the Dana's formed associations with area colleges such as Hiram College and Kent State University's Warren branch.

Surviving the Great Depression and state intervention proved taxing on D.M.I. throughout the 1930s. Financial difficulties combined with increasing state requirements forced the institute to explore a merger or affiliation with a college or university to retain full accreditation. Due to the failing health of Lynn Dana, Sr., the work of orchestrating such a merger fell to his son, Lynn Dana, Jr. The most promising collaboration proved to be with the new Youngstown College in Youngstown, Ohio.

Youngstown College had its beginnings as a Y.M.C.A. reading room. The educational needs of the Youngstown community spawned an incredible growth of the endeavor and it soon blossomed into a fully functioning college. In 1929, the college began to establish its own music department. By the time Lynn Dana, Jr. approached the Board of Governors, the music department was ready to expand and eagerly accepted the D.M.I. faculty, students, and instruments into its fold.

While the merger did ensure the continuation of D.M.I., the move from Warren weighed heavily on the hearts of the Dana family and the Institute's faculty. The fortunes of Warren and D.M.I. intertwined in a unique way. D.M.I. and the Dana family were political and cultural leaders in the city and their presence was sorely missed.

Youngstown, however, benefited from the move. The fledgling music school inherited the prestige of the long established D.M.I. The two faculties and student bodies achieved a cohesiveness rarely seen after a merger. By September 1941, the move from Warren was complete and the new school, known as the Dana Institute of Music of Youngstown College, began to pave its own road.

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Currently known as the Dana School of Music, the department continues to grow and evolve. While preserving the fundamentals of fine musicianship, the department expands with changing tastes in popular music and theory. While current students may not know the source of the school's name, the mission of William Henry Dana remains--to produce professional musicians of the highest caliber.

### **Scope and Content**

This collection is a combination of materials relating to the Dana School of Music that were housed in various areas across campus. While the original provenance is unknown, portions were stored in Media and Academic Computing and Maag Library's Multimedia Center. Debra Beronja, Access Services Librarian, stored materials she received from Dr. Alvin Skardon, a retired YSU history professor and author of [Steel Valley University: The Origin of Youngstown State](#).

Consequently, the order imposed is artificial. With a date range from 1897 to 2019, items were grouped according to type and organized within that group for ease of use. Records include student and alumni records of Dana's Musical Institute, numerous scrapbooks, photographs, performance programs, and audio and video recordings of performances. The identification of the reel-to-reel and cassettes tapes was based solely on information from the original packaging. While the collection is by no means complete, it is an asset to researchers interested in the history and development of YSU's music department.

In 2021 the audio recordings were digitized by a vendor for preservation purposes. This includes Series VI, VII, and VIII. The VHS tapes were found to be audio-only recordings. Some of these recordings are available for YSU staff and student access via the digital collections the University Archives, at <https://digital.maag.ysu.edu/xmlui/handle/1989/54>.

For questions about access to recordings, please contact the University Archives and Special Collections at Maag Library.

### **Series Description**

Series I:	Student and alumni records
Series II:	Scrapbooks
Series III:	Photographs
Series IV:	Publications
Series V:	Performance programs
Series VI:	Reel-to-reel audio tapes
Series VII:	Audiocassette tapes
Series VIII:	VHS video tapes

## Colophon

In the Fall of 2021, Amber Bales, an MLIS intern from San Jose State University, uploaded a majority of the digital audio files to the digital collection for the College of Creative Arts and Communications (CCAC). During her work on the project, it was noted that there were some mislabeled items in the finding aid when compared with the physical item or recorded audio. The finding aid was updated with the corrections.

## Related Materials

UA 2005.11 John Turk papers.

UA 2004.41 Youngstown State University. Nellie Dehnbostel Collection, 1925-1985.

The Dana Concert Series. Youngstown, OH: Youngstown State University, 1972-73—1992-93.

Dana Recital Programs: Dana School of Music of Youngstown State University. Youngstown, OH: Youngstown State University, 1968-69—1970-71.

History of Youngstown College/Nellie Dehnbostel: Interviewed by William Manser. Oral History 0002, 1974.

Dana, William H. Dana's Practical Harmony. Warren, OH: Dana's Musical Institute, 1884.

Dana, William H. Dana's Practical Thorough Base: The Art of Playing Church Music. Warren, OH: Dana's Musical Institute, c1875.

Skardon, Alvin W. Steel Valley University: The Origin of Youngstown State. Youngstown, OH: Youngstown State University, 1983.

Turk, John R. The Musical Danas of Warren, Ohio: The History of the Dana School of Music. Youngstown, OH: Dana Press of Youngstown State University, 1999?

## Index Terms

Alumni records  
Audiocassette tapes  
Dana, Junius  
Dana, Lynn B., Jr.  
Dana, Lynn B., Sr.  
Dana, William Henry  
Dana's Musical Institute  
Dana School of Music

Dehnbostel, Nellie Gwynne  
Performance programs  
Photographs  
Reel-to-reel tapes  
Student transcripts  
Warren, OH  
Youngstown College  
Youngstown, OH  
Youngstown State University  
Youngstown University

## **BOX 1**

### **SERIES I: STUDENT AND ALUMNI RECORDS**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, A
2	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, B—BA
3	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, BE—BO
4	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, BR
5	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, BU—BY
6	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, C—CL
7	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, CO—CU
8	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, D
9	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, E
10	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, F
11	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, G
12	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, H—HE
13	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, HI—HY
14	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, I
15	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, J
16	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, K
17	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, L—LO
18	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, LU—LY
19	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, M—MI
20	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, MI—MY
21	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, Mac's
22	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, N
23	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, O
24	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, P
25	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, R

## **BOX 2**

## **SERIES I: STUDENT AND ALUMNI RECORDS**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, S—SH
2	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, SH—SN
3	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, SO—SU
4	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, T
5	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, U—V
6	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, W
7	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, Y
8	Student transcripts, correspondence and records, Z
9	Alumni records, Adams—Dunlap
10	Alumni records, Eatwell—Ilas
11	Alumni records, Jacobson—Nummi
12	Alumni records, O'Connor—Szalma
13	Alumni records, Taggart—Zavala
14	Class records: Missing cards list, class lists 1870-1941, 1870-1956, 1927-1966
15	Curriculum Committee Minutes, 8 Jun 1962; 1968 memo on campus employment of students; application for a new or changed course, n.d.; revised curriculum for B.M. degree, major in composition, n.d.; composition major courses, two copies, n.d.; composition major, n.d.; music education major: general course, two copies, n.d.: sacred music and music education majors, n.d.; voice and instrument majors, n.d.; requirement for the degree: bachelor of arts with major in the history and literature of music, two copies, one with notes, n.d.

### **Box 3**

#### **SERIES II: SCRAPBOOKS**

Scrapbook 1918-1920  
Scrapbook 1921-1922  
Scrapbook 1921-1923

### **Box 4**

#### **SERIES II: SCRAPBOOKS**

Scrapbook 1923-1924  
Scrapbook 1923-1925  
Scrapbook 1925-1926  
Scrapbook 1926-1928

### **Box 5**

#### **SERIES II: SCRAPBOOKS**

Scrapbook 1928-1931

Scrapbook 1933  
Scrapbook 1934-1935

## **Box 6**

### **SERIES II: SCRAPBOOKS**

Scrapbook 1898-1951  
Scrapbook 1916-1938

## **Box 7**

### **SERIES III: PHOTOGRAPHS**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	Dana's Musical Institute building; 1912?; J. A. Schmitt, n.d.; group photograph, n.d.; Dana School of Music building at Youngstown College, two copies, n.d
2	Dana's Musical Institute class of 1922
3	Dana's Musical Institute class of 1924
4	Dana's Musical Institute class of 1926

## **Box 2**

### **SERIES IV: PUBLICATIONS**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
16	Original cover of <u>Dana's Practical Harmony</u> ; 1884; <u>Dana's Musical Institute and College of Music Catalog</u> , 1921; <u>Dana's Blue Book Announcement</u> , 1924-25; Dana's Musical Institute Founder's Day program, 9 Oct 1939; 150 <sup>th</sup> anniversary booklet, 2019; newspaper article about new D.M.I. faculty, n.d.; loose page of a D.M.I. catalog, n.d.; brochure from the Dana School of Music of Youngstown College, n.d.

## **Box 2**

### **SERIES V: PERFORMANCE PROGRAMS**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
17	Scattered programs from performances related to Dana's Musical Institute, 1930s
18	Scattered programs from performances related to Dana's Musical Institute and the Dana School of Music of Youngstown College, 1940s
19	Scattered programs from performances related to the Dana School of Music of Youngstown College, 1950s



- 20 Scattered programs from performances related to the Dana School of Music of Youngstown College, 1960s
- 21 Scattered programs from performances related to the Dana School of Music of Youngstown State University, 1970s
- 22 Scattered programs from performances related Dana's Musical Institute and the Dana School of Music, n.d.

### **Box 8**

#### **SERIES VI: REEL-TO-REEL AUDIO TAPES**

<b>Reel</b>	<b>Content</b>
1-2	YSU Chorus and Concert Band, 1 May 1977
3	YSU Chorus and Concert Band, 6 May 1979
4	YSU Chorus and Concert Band, n.d
5	YSU Concert Band, 6 Mar 1970
6	YSU Concert Band, 12 May 1975
7	YSU Concert Band, 20 May 1976
8	YSU Concert Band, Spring 1978
9-10	YSU Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, 10 Mar 1975
11-13	YSU Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, 1 Mar 1976
14	YSU Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, 7 Mar 1977
15	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 18 Nov 1974
16	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 12 May 1975, reel 1 of 2

### **Box 9**

#### **SERIES VI: REEL-TO-REEL AUDIO TAPES**

<b>Reel</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 12 May 1975, reel 2 of 2 [misabeled as determined by reviewing sound]
2-3	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 17 Nov 1975
4	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 31 Oct 1977
5-6	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 6 Nov 1978
7-8	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 26 Feb 1979
9-10	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 14 May 1979
11-16	No label, n.d.

### **Box 10**

#### **SERIES VI: REEL-TO-REEL AUDIO TAPES**

<b>Reel</b>	<b>Content</b>
1-3	YSU Wind Ensemble, 12 Nov 1973
4-5	YSU Wind Ensemble, 4 Mar 1974
6-7	YSU Wind Ensemble, 13 May 1974
8	YSU Wind Ensemble, 19 Apr 1976
9-10	YSU Wind Ensemble, 17 May 1976
11	YSU Wind Ensemble, 15 Nov 1976

12-14	YSU Wind Ensemble, 1976-1977 composite
15	YSU Wind Ensemble, 16 May 1977
16	YSU Wind Ensemble, 31 Oct 1977

### **Box 11**

#### **SERIES VI: REEL-TO-REEL AUDIO TAPES**

<b>Reel</b>	<b>Content</b>
1-2	YSU Wind Ensemble, 6 Mar 1978
3	YSU Wind Ensemble, 8 May 1978
4	YSU Wind Ensemble, 6 Nov 1978
5	YSU Wind Ensemble, 26 Feb 1979
6	YSU Wind Ensemble, Fall 1979
7	YSU Wind Ensemble, n.d.
8	Stargazing—Donald Erb, 1969
9-10	No label, n.d.

### **Box 12**

#### **SERIES VII: AUDIOCASSETTE TAPES**

<b>Cassette</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	[missing cassette]
2-3	YSU Wind Ensemble, 12 Nov 1973
4	YSU Wind Ensemble, 4 Mar 1974
5	YSU Wind Ensemble, 4 May 1974
6	YSU Wind Ensemble, 1 Mar 1976
7	YSU Wind Ensemble, 19 Apr 1976
8-9	YSU Wind Ensemble, 17 May 1976
10-11	YSU Wind Ensemble, 15 Nov 1976
12-15	YSU Wind Ensemble, 16 May 1977
16-18	YSU Wind Ensemble, 1976/1977 Composite
19	YSU Wind Ensemble, 8 May 1978
20-22	YSU Wind Ensemble, 6 Nov 1978
23	YSU Wind Ensemble, Winter 1978
24	YSU Wind Ensemble, 1979 (cassettes 1 of 2 only)
25-26	YSU Wind Ensemble, 26 Feb 1979
27	YSU Wind Ensemble, Spring 1979 (cassette 1 of 3 only)
28-29	YSU Wind Ensemble, Fall 1979
30	YSU Wind Ensemble, 5 Nov 1984
31	YSU Wind Ensemble, 25 Feb 1985
32	YSU Wind Ensemble, n.d.
33	YSU Wind Ensemble, 12 May 1975
34	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 12 May 1975 (cassette 1 of 2 only) [misabeled as determine by reviewing sound]

### **Box 13**

## **SERIES VII: AUDIOCASSETTE TAPES`**

<b>Cassette</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 26 Feb 1979 (cassette 1 of 2 only)
2-4	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 5 Nov 1984 (3 cassettes, two copies of 2 of 2)
5	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 9 Nov 1986
6	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 22 Nov 1986
7-8	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 9 Nov 1987 (2 copies)
9	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 21 Nov 1987
10	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 24 May 1988
11	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 13 Feb 1989
12	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 29 Oct 1990
13	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 4 Mar 1991
14	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 4 Nov 1991
15	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 2 Mar 1992
16	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 9 Nov 1992
17	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 1 Mar 1993
18	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 28 Feb 1994
19	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 11, May, 1986
20	YSU Bands, 22 Feb 1987
21-22	YSU Bands, 1 Jun 1987 (2 copies)
23-24	YSU Bands, 15 Feb 1988 (2 copies)
25-26	YSU Bands, 24 May 1988 (2 copies)
27-28	YSU Bands, 22 May 1989 (2 copies)
29	YSU Bands, 20 May 1991
30	YSU Dana Chorale, University Chorus, and Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 3 May 1992
31	YSU Dana School of Music, Extravabandza, 1994
32	Dana Chorale, University Chorus, and Concert Band, 13 May 1984
33	YSU Concert Band and Chamber Ensembles, 13 Mar 1994
34	YSU Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, 10 Mar 1975 (cassette 1 of 2)

### **Box 14**

## **SERIES VII: AUDIOCASSETTE TAPES**

<b>Cassette</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	YSU Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, 10 Mar 1975 (cassette 2 of 2)
2-4	YSU Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, 1 Mar 1976 (3 of 3 cassettes)
5-6	YSU Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, 7 Mar 1977 (2 copies)
7	YSU Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, 9 Mar 1986
8	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Concert Band, 13 May 1985
9	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Concert Band, 18 May 1992
10	YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Concert Band, 17 May 1993
11-14	YSU Dana Choral and Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 3 May 1987 (4 copies)
15	YSU Dana Choral and Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 1 May 1988
16	YSU Choirs and Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 7 May 1989

17	University Choir, 1 May 1972 (cassette 2 of 2 only)
18-21	ASBDA Convention 1984, YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble (4 of 4 cassettes)
22	YSU Concert Band, 12 May 1975
23	YSU Concert Band, 20 May 1976
24	YSU Concert Band, 9 Mar 1989
25	YSU Concert Band, 13 Mar 1991
26	YSU Concert Band, Winter, n.d
27	YSU Concert Band, n.d.
28	University Concert Choir, 1 May 1977 (cassette 1 of 2 only)
29	Youngstown Area Community Concert Band/YSU Concert Band, 11 Mar 1992
30	District V Honors Band, 22 Nov 1986
31	Big River, n.d.
32	Oliver: Bands and Chorus, n.d.
33	Mealionic Wrel (?), n.d.
34	Dedication, n.d.
35	No label, n.d.

### **Box 11**

#### **SERIES VIII: VHS VIDEO TAPES**

<b>Tape</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	DNA 1001, n.d
2	DNA 1002, n.d.
3	DNA 1003, n.d.