

Hill Auditorium's Historical Context

Developed by Charlie Reischl, UMS Intern

Michigan's manufacturing revolution arrived just after it began driving its roots of statehood into the ground. The money generated by this industry, combined with the state's desire to create a strong university of the West, fueled significant expansion of the University of Michigan.

By the 1870s, U-M was thriving in Ann Arbor and executive administrators and regents were wanting to enhance the environment further with increased music programs for its students. University Hall was built to meet these needs and also to serve as a central location where the whole student body could join together. The Ann Arbor Choral Union [1879] and University Musical Society's [1880] organized the community around this new performance space and the first May Festival in 1893 further displayed University interest in creating traditions of art presentation in Ann Arbor.

As various Michigan industries boomed and the populations of Michigan and the Midwest swelled, so too did the student enrollment of U-M, such that by the mid 1890s the entire student body could no longer fit in University Hall and a new larger hall was needed. Fundraising efforts for this project (between 1890 and 1909) by Francis Kelsey were not successful until the death of Arthur Hill.

- [1817] University of Michigan founded
- [1837] Michigan becomes a State and the charter for the University of Michigan moves it from Detroit to Ann Arbor.
- [1847] State Capital moves from Detroit to Lansing
- [1848] California gold rush begins - population of US moves west. (1848-1855)
- [1855] Agricultural College of the State of Michigan (later, Michigan State University) is founded.
- [1871] University Hall built with an auditorium seating 3,000 students, and a chapel seating 550.
- [1890s] Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler car companies are founded in Detroit.
- [1894] 1st May Festival organized with great success.
- [1893-4] Frieze Memorial Organ purchased, installed in University Hall [1913] Organ is moved to Hill.
- [1898] "The Victors" is written by Louis Elbel, a senior student.
- [1900-1930] Detroit population expansion from ~285,000 to ~1,580,000 people.
- [1905] Albert Einstein announces his special theory of relativity and other key theories in physics.
- [1905] New York City's Institute of Musical Art - later the Julliard School - is founded.
- [1906] The University of Michigan football Stadium is replaced to expand seating to 18,000. Albert Kahn is the head architect. Total cost ~\$30,000.
- [1909] Arthur Hill dies and leaves \$200,000 for the building of Hill Auditorium
- [1912] Titanic sinks on maiden voyage.
- [1913] Henry Ford develops first moving assembly line for his Model T design.
- [1913] Amendments made to the US Constitution: 16th (income taxes), 17th (direct election of senators)
- [1913] **Hill Auditorium is completed.**
- [1914] World War I begins in Europe; Detroit becomes war-time manufacturing hot spot.
- [1914] Babe Ruth hits first home run.

UMS/ University of Michigan/ Music School History

PRESIDENTS OF UMS

Henry Frieze [1879-81, 1883-89]

Alexander Winchell [1881-83, 1889-91]

Francis Kelsey [1891-1927]

Charles A. Sink [1927-1968]

Gail W. Rector [1968-1987]

Ken Fischer [1987- Present]

DEVELOPMENT OF U-M SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE

[1879] **Ann Arbor Choral Union formed** to sing Handel's *Messiah*, organ accompaniment and direction by Henry Frieze

[1880] **UMS formed** by the same officers as the Choral Union (Frieze is 1st President)

[1881] **Ann Arbor School of Music formed** as an independent org (separate board of directors from UMS but with many shared members)

- Founded by Calvin Cady, a University professor with interest in additional teaching opportunities outside of his U-M duties.

- A privately operated school affiliated with UMS through Calvin Cady (who directed some Choral Union productions and was a professor of music at U-M [1880-1888])

- Calvin Cady resigns [1888] and Albert Stanley appointed director [1888-1929] of the Ann Arbor School of Music.

[1892] **University School of Music formed**

- Operated by UMS directly, more secure funding through subscription. Cost: \$65/ year.

- 13 faculty members- lessons in piano violin, mandolin, voice, organ, Flute, guitar

- UMS initially had to rent space from University

[1893] School of Music Building Association formed, raised \$25,000 and bought 325 Maynard St., Francis Kelsey was a key fundraiser.

[1905] Regents authorized U-M students to perform accredited studies and recitals at the UMS-governed University School of Music.

[1929] **University of Michigan incorporates the University School of Music** and it officially becomes the University of Michigan Music Department.

[1946] The Department of Music becomes The U-M School of Music.

[1963] Current music building built on U-M North Campus

[2006] School name changes to School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Key Players

Henry Simmons Frieze [1817-1889]

- U of M Latin Department Head [1854-1888]
- Interim U-M President [1869-1871] (built University Hall during this time) *and* [1880-1882]
- Introduced accredited high school University Admission system
- Initiated admission for women to U-M (Board Approves 1870), by 1890 almost 20% of students on campus are women.
- Avid organ performer and teacher; organ inside Hill is dedicated to him
- Led first Choral Union [1879]
- One of central founders of UMS [1880]; responsible for the Latin, *Ars longa vita brevis* [Art is long, life is short] being present on the original UMS seal.

Francis Willey Kelsey [1858-1927]

- Latin Department Head [1889- 1927]
- President of University Musical Society [1891-1927]
- Founder of May Festival with Albert Stanley [1893]
- Advocate for arts at U-M, but failed to solicit \$ for an auditorium to replace University Hall
- Held archeological expeditions to Rome, Egypt, and the surrounding Mediterranean, brought back over 100,000 individual artifacts which are held at the Kelsey Museum of Archeology.
- Acquired the Stearns Musical Instruments Collection in 1899 for University

Albert Kahn [1869-1942]

- Born in Prussia, moved to US when he was 11, returned to Europe to study architecture.
- [1895] Albert Kahn and Associates architecture firm is formed.
- Developed a reinforced concrete method that replaced wood in factory walls, allowing factories to contain much larger open spaces without support beams (the same technology utilized in Hill)
- Kahn designed hundreds of factories and other buildings for Ford, The Packard Motor Company, and GM including their corporate headquarters buildings.
- Kahn designed most of U-M's central campus buildings; many are located along the diag.

Arthur Hill [1847-1909]

- Born in Saginaw where he went to public schools, he attended the University of Michigan where he got a degree in Civil Engineering in 1865; later he studied law
- Worked as a "land looker" for a lumber company after schooling for 7 years (he would travel on foot to different properties in Michigan surveying lumber values)
- Successfully formed his own business with his brother, Hill Brothers Lumber [1872], also formed the Saginaw Steel Steam Ship Company [1890] on the west coast.
- Mayor of Saginaw three times.
- Supported the University significantly during his lifetime and gave \$200,000 in his will to U-M for the construction of Hill Auditorium, something he didn't reveal until after his death.

Albert Stanley [1851-1932]

- [1888] President Angell invited Stanley to Ann Arbor to be a music professor, and to be musical director of the University Musical Society
- Stanley led the reorganization of the University School of Music [1892]
- Gave frequent organ recitals in Ann Arbor on Frieze Memorial Organ
- Initiated the first May Festival with Kelsey in 1893.
- Served in major roles in national and international arts organizations including the presidency of the American Section of the International Music Society

Architectural History of Hill Auditorium

Kahn's reinforced concrete methods of design that created larger factory spaces also was applied to Hill Auditorium in collaboration with Hugh Tallant the acoustical designer working alongside him. They were able to apply theories about ellipsis reverberation on a large scale to ensure maximum projection from Hill auditorium's stage- the whole wall is tilted forward from the stage all the way to the balcony ceiling. This couldn't have been done without the same technology that enabled the car boom in Detroit. It is said that from the focal point on the stage center a dime can be dropped and heard in the last row of the balcony.

HILL'S ORGAN

1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago Display of Farrund and Votey built Organ → installed in University Hall with dedication on December 14, 1894. Dedicated as Henry Frieze Memorial Organ. Kelsey Fundraised with University regents and others in country.

ALBERT KAHN'S OTHER U OF M BUILDINGS

[1904] Engineering Building (now West Hall)
[1906] Psychopathic Hospital (demolished)
[1913] Hill Auditorium
[1915] Helen Newberry Residence Hall
[1915] Natural Science Building
[1920] Betsy Barbour Residence Hall
[1920] General Library (now Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library)
[1923] William L. Clements Library
[1924] Angell Hall
[1924] Physical Science Building (now Randall Laboratory)
[1925] University Hospital (demolished)
[1925] Couzens Hall
[1925] East Medical Building (now C. C. Little Building)
[1927] Thomas H. Simpson Memorial Institute
[1928] University Museums Building
[1936] Burton Memorial Tower
[1938] Neuropsychiatric Institute (demolished)

[Kahn dies 1942]

ALBERT KAHN ASSOCIATES U OF M BUILDINGS

(Kahn founded Albert Kahn Associates in Detroit in 1895)

[1957] Undergraduate Library (Shapiro)
[1963] Physics & Astronomy Building (Dennison)
[1969] C. S. Mott Children's Hospital
[1972] Undergraduate Classroom & Office Building (Modern Languages Building)
[1986] University Hospital