

Songs of BGSU

Alma Maters

1915 Ernest Hesser composed the first "School Song" *We hail you, Dear Normal College*.¹ It served as the Alma Mater from 1915 to 1934. The dedication reads: "To Our First and Honored President Homer B. Williams." The word Normal was dropped in 1929 when the Normal College became Bowling Green State College, but it not clear how it was done or what replaced it.

1
We hail you, dear Nor - mal Col - - - lege, O - hi - o's great seat of
We hon - or you Al - ma Ma - - - ter, We love you dear Al - ma

The first system of the musical score consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The piano accompaniment is in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

8
knowl - edge. O cheer then dear broth - ers, Sing then dear sis - ters, Buck-eyes from
Ma - - - ter. We wave high our ban - ner Your [sic] the com - mand - er, Or - ange and

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

15
this grand state, Rah! Rah! We raise high the flog of vic - - - tory, Your
Brown sloat high, Rah! Rah! Our team is the great - est ev - - - er, Just

The third system of the musical score concludes the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

¹ Center for Archival Collections, pUA 0795 f.

22

fame is the whole world o'er Rah! Rah! So shout-ing de - fi - ance, We have re -
see them breakk up that line, Rah! Rah! A touch-down we're mak - ing, Their men are

29

REFRAIN

li - ance, win-ning a great big score. Rah! Rah! Dear Al-ma Ma - ter staunch and
shak - ing, Or - ange and Brown float high Rah! Rah!


35

true — we pledge out heart and hand for you — Our loy-al ty to you we're deed-ing, And

40

here's to you al-ways lead-ing. Dear Al-ma Ma - ter staunch and true — We pledge our heart and hand for

45



you ——— No oth-er school so grand has e'er been seen as Nor-mal Col-lege Bowl - ing Green.

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal line for measure 45. It is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a series of quarter notes: B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The line concludes with a half note G4. The lyrics are aligned with the notes: "you" under the first G, "No oth-er" under the next two notes, "school so grand" under the next four notes, "has e'er been seen" under the next four notes, "as" under the next note, "Nor-mal Col-lege Bowl - ing" under the next four notes, and "Green." under the final note.

45



Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for measure 45, consisting of two staves: a treble clef staff for the right hand and a bass clef staff for the left hand. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The right hand starts with a half note chord (G4, B4, D5) and then plays a series of eighth notes: A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4. The left hand starts with a half note chord (G3, B3, D4) and then plays a series of quarter notes: A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3. The piece ends with a double bar line.

1927 *College Hymn*. Words and Music by Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Jordan. This does not seem to have been an alma mater, although it certainly is in the style of one.

College Hymn

Words and Music by Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Jordan

To thee, Our College—Bowling Green, we lift our hearts in praise,

The name that thrills our very souls, that gladdens college days;

To thee, Oh Alma Mater, dear, we pledge true loyalty.

Our preparation—our success—we trust it all to thee.

We hail thee for such spirit bright
That keeps our hearts aglow;
We love thee for real helpfulness—
A guide as storm-winds blow.
We honor thee—so firm for right,
Not popularity.
Yea, for ideals that touch the sky,
We almost worship thee.

Then, as our thoughts return again
To thee, through mist of years,
We'll ne'er forget our college days,
Their pleasures and their tears.
And as we near life's journey's end
With mind still young and keen,
We'll pray for heaven's blessings on
Our College—Bowling Green.

Copyright, 1927, by Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Jordan

1934 In 1934, *We Hail Thee*, was replaced by the Alma Mater Hymn *Home of Aspiring Souls*, with words by J. W. Carmichael; the music is that of *Finlandia*.² It was intended at the outset to replace the original alma mater. Beginning with this piece, the composition of the music to the Alma Mater fell out of the hands of the music faculty. Composition of the alma mater became a matter of a competition in the 1950s

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BEE GEE NEWS

ALMA MATER HYMN

Words by J. W. Carmichael

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY
ARCHIVES
arr. from 'Sibelius' "Finlandia"

Home of as-pir-ing souls, our col-lege stands On fer-tile plains where once roamed In-dian bands,
Where gor-geous sun-sets tint the bend-ing sky, Where pi'-neers strong in dust, now lie;
Keep high the flame en-kind-led at their shrine Our hearts in beau-ty to en-twine.

The image shows a page of a musical score for the Alma Mater Hymn. It features three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the notes. A circular stamp from Bowling Green State University Archives is visible in the upper right corner, indicating the arrangement is from Sibelius's 'Finlandia'. The page is labeled 'PAGE 4' and 'BEE GEE NEWS'.

1950s—The Alma Mater Contest

In anticipation of the 50th anniversary of the University, a contest was held between 1955 and 1959 to provide a new alma mater. The contest was open to alumni; no music faculty member appears to have participated. There were five submissions, one for each year. All of the following material is part of the Center for Archival Collections.

² BG News 10/31/1934.

The Submissions

1955—*Hail to thee, our Alma Mater*

The image shows a handwritten musical score on aged, yellowed paper. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The paper shows signs of age, including some staining and a slightly uneven texture.

Hail to thee, our Al - ma Mat - ter, Bowl - ing Green, thy name we raise,
Ev - er new, yet nev - er chang - ing, In the search for spark of truth,

Bright the scenes, and green the mem'ries Ris - ing as we sing thy praises,
Lead - ing for - ward, up - ward, on - ward, Guide for age and earn - est youth,

Guid - ed by thy earn - est coun - sel, Linked in friend - ship's gold - en chain,
Seed of know - ledge, free - ly giv - en, In our lives, fair fruit may bear,

We whose lives have felt thy lead - ing True and con - stant will re - main,
We who reap the wealth of be - ing Now in tune thy trib - ute share.

1956—Alma Mater, hear us

Words and Music by
Edith M. Ludwig, B.A., B.S. in Ed., '51
(Mrs. Herbert Bell)

Bowling Green State University
1960

The musical score is written for piano and voice in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

Al - ma Ma - ter, hear us, As we praise thy name, Make us worthy
Time will treat you kind - ly, Years from now you'll be Ever dear - er

Sons and Daughters, Adding to thy fame. From your halls of ivy,
in our hearts, our un - i - ver - si - ty.

To the campus scene, Chimes ring out with gladness, For our dear Bowling

Green. When all is just a mem'ry, Of the by-gone days,

Hear our hymn, dear Al - ma Ma - ter, As thy name we praise.

1957—Fair Bowling Green

Fair Bow - ling Green, thy spi-rit sur- rounds us e - ver
Where soar the fight- ting Fal - cons what ev - er be the

high, with in thy bounds and far be - yond the rim of sea and
game, our voic-es rise in song and shout a tu-mult of a-

sky. We bear with-in our be - ing the mask of days with
claim! What fu-ture days will bring us can-not be known or

thee; our lives re - flect thy light of truth, thy wis-dom vast and free
seen, but thru them all our faith and love, shall turn to Bowling
Green.

The musical score is written on a yellowed, aged paper. It features a treble and bass clef on the left side of each system. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed in a simple, typewritten font below the corresponding musical staves. The paper shows signs of age, including some staining and discoloration.

1958—To Bowling Green We Sing Our Praises

The image shows a handwritten musical score on aged, yellowed paper. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines.

To Bow-ling Green we sing our praise, And raise our lo - yal song. To

laud the co - lours orange and brown, The Fal-con fierce and strong. The

spir-it that has mold-ded thee, the ground on which you stand. Shall

watch our gen-er - a - tions pass. To serve through all the land.

Refrain
slightly faster

Bow-ling Green our Bow-ling Green, Oh may thy Fal - con soar. To
guide thee and de - fend thee for now and ev - er more.

The image shows a page of handwritten musical notation on aged paper. It features two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system includes the instruction 'Refrain slightly faster' and the lyrics 'Bow-ling Green our Bow-ling Green, Oh may thy Fal - con soar. To'. The second system continues the lyrics with 'guide thee and de - fend thee for now and ev - er more.' The notation includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings.

1959—Bowling Green we raise thy name

The image shows a handwritten musical score on aged, yellowed paper. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system is for Verse One and Verse Two. Verse One lyrics: "Bow - ling Green we raise thy name and in thine hon - or". Verse Two lyrics: "will our hearts in joy re - call the man - y trees - ured". The second system continues the lyrics: "stand. Thy growth and mer - it to pro - claim and spread throughtout the spots. Where voi - ces ech - oed down the hall re - ech - o in our land. The know - ledge, truth, and which we have sought to thoughts. And fel - low - ship". The third system concludes the lyrics: "find. With - in thy walls, oh Bowling Green, left be - hind. shall ne're be". The music is written in treble and bass clefs with various key signatures and time signatures. There are some handwritten annotations and corrections throughout the score.

Verse One Bow - ling Green we raise thy name and in thine hon - or
Verse Two will our hearts in joy re - call the man - y trees - ured

stand. Thy growth and mer - it to pro - claim and spread throughtout the spots. Where voi - ces ech - oed down the hall re - ech - o in our

land. The know - ledge, truth, and which we have sought to thoughts. And fel - low - ship

find. With - in thy walls, oh Bowling Green, left be - hind. shall ne're be

The Deliberations

A 30-member committee was given the task of selecting the winner, and the record of its deliberations still exists in the Archives, along with someone's marginal notes.

ALMA MATER - 1955

Hail to thee, our Alma Mater, Bowling Green, thy name we raise;
Bright the scenes and green the mem'ries Rising as we sing thy praise.
Guided by thy earnest counsel, Linked in friendship's golden chain,
We whose lives have felt thy leading, True and constant will remain.

Ever new, yet never changing, In the search for spark of truth,
Leading forward, upward, onward, Guide for age and earnest youth.
Seed of knowledge, freely given, In our lives, fair fruit may bear;
We who reap the wealth of being, Now in tune thy tribute share.

ALMA MATER - 1956

Alma Mater, hear us, As we praise thy name,
Make us worthy sons and daughters, Adding to thy fame.

CHORUS:
From your halls of ivy, To the campus scene,
Chimes ring out with gladness, For our dear Bowling Green.
When all is just a mem'ry, Of the bygone days,
Hear our hymn dear Alma Mater, As thy name we praise.

VERSE 2:
Time will treat you kindly, Years from now you'll be,
Ever dearer in our hearts, our University.

ALMA MATER - 1957

Fair Bowling Green, thy spirit surrounds us ever high,
With in thy bounds and far beyond the rim of sea and sky.
We bear within our being the mask of days with thee;
Our lives reflect thy light of truth, thy wisdom vast and free.

Where soar the fighting Falcons what ever be the game,
Our voices rise in song and shout a tumult of acclaim!
What future days will bring us cannot be known or seen,
But thru them all our faith and love, shall turn to Bowling Green.

ALMA MATER - 1958

To Bowling Green we sing our praise, And raise our loyal song,
To laud the colors orange and brown, The Falcon fierce and strong.
The spirit that has molded thee, The ground on which you stand.
Shall watch our generations pass, To serve through all the land.

CHORUS:
Bowling Green our Bowling Green, Oh may thy Falcon soar.
To guide thee and defend thee, For now and ever more.

Handwritten notes and signatures:

- Tommy* (written over the 1955 text)
- Candidly Best* (written next to the 1956 text)
- Good them* (written next to the 1956 Chorus)
- 57*, *59* (written next to the 1956 text)
- Ruth Fairman* (written next to the 1956 text)
- Hymn* (written next to the 1956 Chorus)
- Project Hall*, *Char Hall* (written next to the 1957 text)
- Best made* (written next to the 1958 text)
- 55*, *56* (written next to the 1958 text)
- Winn*, *May*, *Spig* (written at the bottom right)

ALMA MATER - 1959

Bowling Green we raise thy name and in thine honor stand.
Thy growth and merit to proclaim and spread throughout the land.
The knowledge, truth, and fellowship which we have sought to find,
Within thy walls, Oh Bowling Green, shall ne'er be left behind.

Long will our hearts in joy recall the many treasured spots,
Where voices echoed down the hall re-echo in our thoughts.
And knowledge, truth, and fellowship which we have sought to find,
Within thy walls, Oh Bowling Green, shall ne'er be left behind.

PRESENT ALMA MATER

Home of aspiring souls, our college stands
On fertile plains where once roamed Indian bands,
Where gorgeous sunsets tint the bending sky,
Where pioneers strong in dust now lie.
Keep high the flame enkindled at their shrine,
Our hearts in beauty to entwine.

Sing we thy praise, our Alma Mater true;
Anthems we raise, our pledge of faith renew,
Thy Brown and Gold unfurling to the sky
Flames forth thy name, thy fame ne'er to die.
Hail! Bowling Green! Thy sons shall ever love thee.
Thy glory, hail! All honor to thee.

*Do by
ballot.*

It shows that submissions from 1955, 1957, and 1959 were eliminated by general agreement, and that the contest was really between submissions from 1956 and 1958. The directive at the end, "Do by ballot," shows that the decision could not be reached by consensus. The result of the ballot was that the 1956 submission by Edith M. Ludwig (B.A., B.S. in Ed., 1951) was "publicly presented as The Alma Mater of Bowling Green State at the Golden Anniversary Convocation, May 19, 1960."

Fight Songs

1946—*Ay Ziggy Zoomba* was the unofficial fight song of the athletic teams. In 1946, Gilbert Fox, a WWII Army Air Corps Bombardier who served in Italy, brought back to Bowling Green his interpretation of a Zulu chant. The piece is still familiar to Bowling Green audiences. CD BGSU 68495

1949—*Forward Falcons*. Wayne Bohrnstedt. In 1949, the newly hired Wayne Bohrnstedt was asked if he could provide a fight song for the institution. The result was *Forward Falcons*.³

The image displays a musical score for the song "Forward Falcons" in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "For - ward Fal - cons, for - ward Fal - cons. Fight for vic - to - ry. Show our spi - rit, make them fear it. Fight for dear Bee - Gee. For - ward Fal - cons, for - ward Fal - cons. Make the con - test keen." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

³ Bohrnstedt's autograph piano/vocal score is in the Center for Archival Collections pUA 1902.

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Hold up the flame of our mighty name and win for Bowling Green.

The texts to both pieces were included in a list of fight songs and cheerleader chants published in the BG News in 1958.

Cheers for the Falcons



FORWARD FALCONS

Forward Falcons, Forward Falcons,
 Fight for victory.
 Show our spirit, make them fear it,
 Fight for dear Bee Gee.
 Forward Falcons, Forward Falcons,
 Make the contest keen.
 Hold up the fame of our mighty name
 And win for Bowling Green!

AY ZIGGY

Ay ziggy zoomba zoomba zoomba
 Ay ziggy zoomba zoomba ze
 Ay ziggy zoomba zoomba zoomba
 Ay ziggy zoomba zoomba ze
 Roll along you B. G. Warriors
 Roll along and fight for B. G. S. U.
 Ay ziggy zoomba zoomba zoomba
 Ay ziggy zoomba zoomba ze
 Ay ziggy zoomba zoomba zoomba
 Ay ziggy zoomba zoomba ze

EXTRA

Extra, extra, read all about it
 We've got a team and we're all
 going to shout it
 With a T-clap, clap, clap
 With a E-clap, clap, clap
 With a A-clap, clap, clap
 With a M-clap, clap, clap
 T-E-A-M
 With a T- (Repeat clap, clap, clap)
 T-E-A-M, Team, Team, Team!

VICTORY

V
 I
 C
 T
 O
 R
 Y
 Victory, Victory,
 VICTORY!

TWO BITS

Two bits
 Four bits
 Six bits
 A dollar—
 All for B-G
 Stand up and hol'er!

FLAG FALCON

F-clap, clap, clap
 A-clap, clap, clap
 L-clap, clap, clap
 C-clap, clap, clap
 O-clap, clap, clap
 N-clap, clap, clap
 S-clap, clap, clap
 F-A-L-C-O-N-S
 Falcons!

WHO WE GONNA BEAT?

(Example: Kent)
 Cheerleaders: Who we gonna beat?
 Crowd: K-flag, flag, flag, E-flag,
 flag, flag, N-flag, flag, flag, T-
 flag, flag, flag
 Cheerleaders: Who?
 Crowd: (Repeat)
 Cheerleaders: Spell it.
 Crowd: Beat Kent!

T-E-A-M

T-e-a-m, Yea Team!
 T-e-a-m, Yea Team!
 T-e-a-m, Yea Team!
 Team, Team, Team!

STOMP CLAP

Stomp, clap, stomp, clap, stomp,
 clap, clap, clap, clap
 (Repeat)
 (Repeat)
 B-clap, stomp, clap, stomp, clap
 clap clap, clap
 G-clap, stomp, clap, stomp, clap
 clap clap, clap
 S-clap, stomp, clap, stomp, clap
 clap clap, clap
 U-clap, stomp, clap, stomp, clap
 clap clap, clap
 B, G, S, U, Let's Go, Falcons!

2010—*Sounds of the Centennial*. Ryan Nowlin (2000; 2004). Winner of BGSU Centennial Fanfare Competition.