

# UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS BULLETIN

ISSUED WEEKLY

Vol XV

OCTOBER 22, 1917

No. 8

Entered as second-class matter December 11, 1912, at the post office at Urbana, Illinois,  
under Act of August 24, 1912.

## Laying the Corner Stone OF The Building for the School of Music



TINA WEEDON SMITH MEMORIAL BUILDING

Exercises will be held at University Auditorium

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1917

4:00 P. M.

Which the people of the State are invited to attend

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA



## ORIGIN AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SMITH MEMORIAL BUILDING

---

On the fourteenth day of September, 1914, Captain Thomas J. Smith, a citizen of Champaign, Illinois, conveyed to the University of Illinois, land valued at \$215,000 for the erection of a music building on the campus. He did this in memory of his wife and for the advancement of the science and art of music.

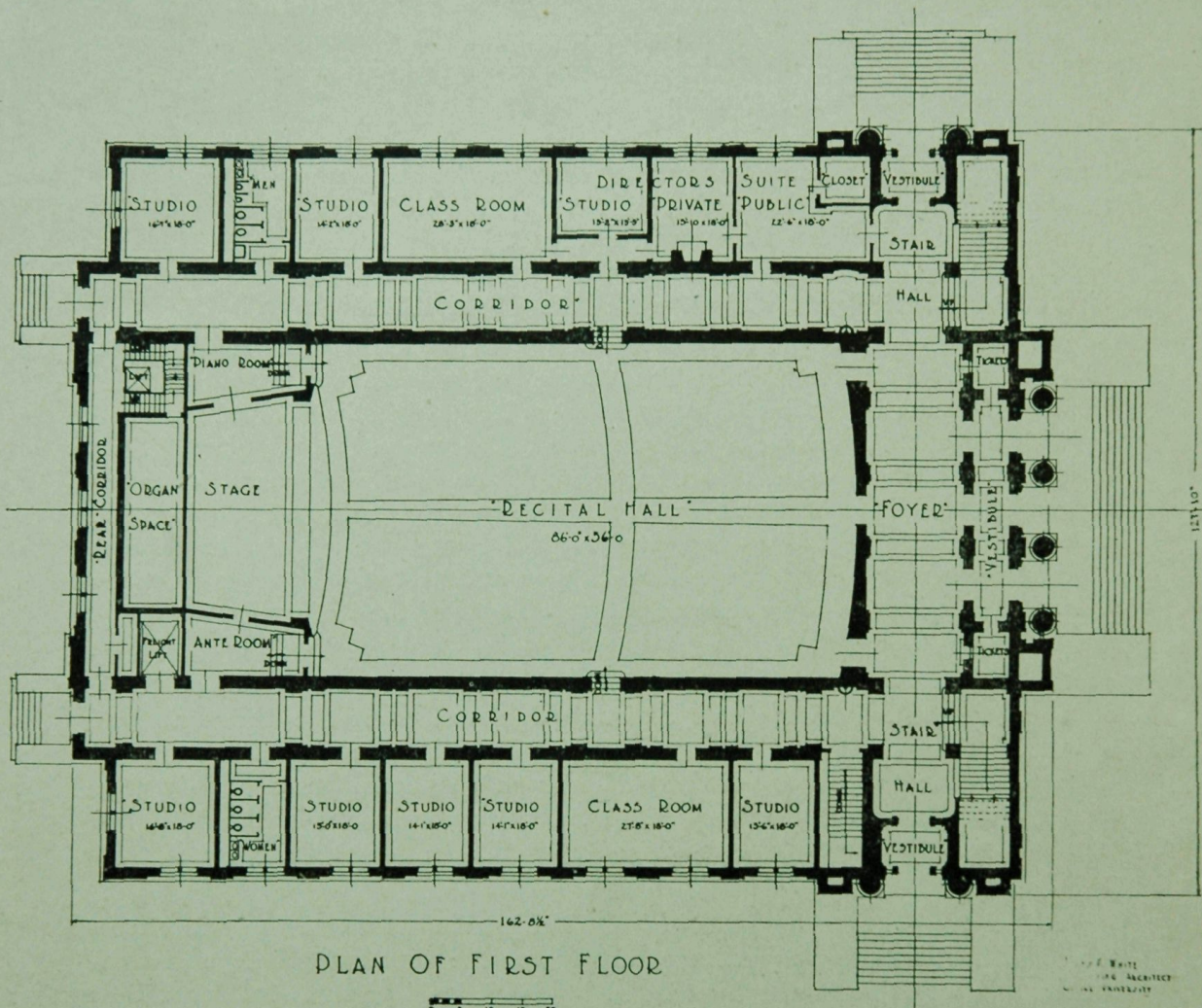
The erection of this building for this purpose is significant in two respects: First, because it marks the greatest gift yet given by a citizen of Illinois to the State University; and Second, because the new building will house a School of Music that is unique in the country in that it was the first to be supported by appropriations from the state and not by fees of students.

Among the leading aims of the School is the development of music teachers for the schools of the state, also to arouse and direct interest in public school music and in general to serve the state as community advisor in musical matters.

Captain Thomas J. Smith, to whom the state is thus indebted, is a native of Virginia. He was educated in Ohio and removed to Illinois in 1858. He taught school and incidently studied law. In 1862 he entered the Federal Army as a private. In 1864 this northern soldier, who had now become Lieutenant Smith, met and married Miss Tina Weedon, a Southern girl. At the close of the war Captain Smith and his wife came to Champaign to reside. Here he practiced law, achieving distinction and financial success. For six years he was a member of the Board of Trustees of the University and was very active in University affairs in many ways. Until her death in August, 1923, Mrs. Smith continued to be the joy of her home and the inspiration of her husband. It was her love and appreciation of music that prompted the gift of a building that should be dedicated to music.



**THE TINA WEEDON SMITH MEMORIAL BUILDING FOR MUSIC**  
**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**  
 Urbana.



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING**

The Tina Weedon Smith Memorial Building is of fireproof construction, with the public part of the interior richly detailed in the style of the Italian Renaissance. The entrance vestibule and foyer form a part of the corridor system permitting entrances and exits on three sides of the Recital Hall, which has a seating capacity of six hundred and fifty persons on the main floor, and four hundred and fifty in the balcony. This room is designed acoustically so as to have a period of reverberation of 1.75 seconds when fully occupied. Provision has also been made for reducing the period of reverberation when there is no audience. On the second floor are the balcony with its foyer and a memorial room, housing the portraits of the donor and his wife, to whom the building is dedicated.

The working quarters for the School of Music comprise on the first floor a suite for the Director, seven studios, and two class rooms and on the second floor eleven studios and a large library. In the attic, the balcony exits open directly into the stair halls on either side, and there are in addition, forty-nine practice rooms and a lecture room seating two hundred. The estimated cost of the building is \$250,000.00.



## DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

---

In the early years of the University music was not included in courses offered, nor did it receive any official recognition. The teachers of music received no salaries from the University but derived their income from fees paid by the students for this instruction.

In March 1892 Acting Regent Dr. Thomas J. Burrill, suggested that much more might be made of the Department of Music by including it in the regular system of instruction. Not until 1895 did the Board of Trustees act upon the suggestion by authorizing President Andrew S. Draper to organize the Department of Music. This was done and Mr. Walter Howe Jones was appointed director of the newly established "SCHOOL OF MUSIC."

In the autumn of 1896 Captain Thomas J. Smith of Champaign was elected as member of the Board of Trustees and soon there was begun a movement to place the School of Music on an equal basis, educationally and financially, with the other schools and colleges of the University. In 1897 through his leadership the Board voted that a first class course in musical education be arranged to be taken in connection with other University work, and that for such courses, successfully pursued and completed, diplomas and appropriate degrees should be conferred. Thus Captain Smith had won part of his plan to place the School of Music on a plane with the other colleges of the University.

In September 1899 he submitted the proposition that all matriculated students should be entitled to instruction in all departments in the School of Music at no higher rate than students of other departments of the University are charged. This proposition of Captain Smith's was accepted by the Board and since that time the School of Music has been conducted on the policy then adopted, that is, that it should be supported by appropriations by the State and that it should no longer have to depend upon the fees of students for its support.

At the present time the School of Music, according to the views of its Director, J. L. Erb, is taking on in increasing degree the duty and privilege of community advisor in musical matters, and its educational work is being modified with the idea of training community leaders rather than concert artists.

During the last fifteen years the development of the School has been both intensive and extensive. Its activities have been greatly widened. Among recent organizations are the Woman's Glee Club and the University Choruses; the Star Course has become almost entirely a musical course, also a new music course known as The University Concert Course. Organ recitals are given every Sunday in the University Auditorium and these are supplemented by frequent recitals and organ numbers at other gatherings. In addition to these more recent organizations the musical life of the campus has found expression through the choral and orchestral societies, numbering together fully three hundred; the University band of more than two hundred; the University Glee and Mandolin Clubs of more than forty; and other unofficial organizations in considerable numbers. There is also in existence an honorary musical fraternity, Mu Kappa Alpha which has for one-half a decade done much to furnish incentive for higher standing among upper classmen.