Alpha Sigma Phi has always been a singing fraternity. Songs of the class societies of Yale were a point of pride for many Yale groups and Alpha Sigma Phi was no different. Shortly after her founding, the Fraternity set out to show her musical skills around the Yale campus and build an organization that could be passed down from successive sophomore classes and music was to be part of that inheritance. She published a pamphlet of initiation songs in 1846, just a few months after her founding.

As the Fraternity grew beyond Yale College in the 1850s and 1860s, she needed more than just a common name and esoteric ritual to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and the shared Alpha Sig experience across chapters and miles. Long before even the earliest radios, vinyl records or Thomas Edison’s phonograph, Alpha Sigma Phi men were creating, recording and performing songs. Some of the earliest records of the Alpha chapter meetings include literary performances, parodies, plays, poetry recitations and feats of vocal prowess and melodic creativity.

Alpha Sigma Phi’s archives contain the definitive collection of Alpha Sigma Phi historic records, artifacts and writings. Perusing that proud collection, one might quickly notice what is believed to be the oldest written record of fraternity songs, a small bound booklet, its cover lost to time, but the Oak Wreath Seal and the title Initiation Songs 1860-1861 both quite clear. Published by Alpha Chapter just a few years before her suppression and rebirth as Delta Beta Xi, the publication lists many songs with lyrics created by Alpha Sigs with some original and many borrowed melodies which would have been familiar to the Yale men of that era.

One tune stands out from that songbook and period. “Wake Freshmen Wake” was originated in the 1860s and was used during the Delta Beta Xi years (1864-1875) as the brothers processed across the Yale campus inviting new members to join the fraternity and singing the song. “Wake Freshmen Wake” remains in our contemporary songbook, some 160 years after it might have been penned, in some part thanks to the Yale Glee Club which was still singing the song over 100 years after the Fraternity originated it. Many chapters use the song today to welcome new members to membership. The Fraternity’s presence on the Yale campus ended in 1875, and with it went the knowledge of many of the oldest tunes and melodies; lost to time. Surviving from those years are collections of songs of Alpha chapter at Yale, Delta Chapter at Marietta, and Delta Beta Xi.
With the Second Founding of the Fraternity in 1907, there was an almost immediate need to sing “songs of loyalty and praise” and again the talents of Alpha Sig men took center stage. In 1909 the Fraternity published her first comprehensive songbook, Fraternity Songs, The Songs of AΣΦ at the direction of the third Grand Chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi, meeting in April of that year at Eta Chapter at the University of Illinois. It featured a cardinal red woven cover and bright golden lettering on the outside and spanned nearly forty pages of Alpha Sig songs, all of them from the period prior to the Fraternity’s recent rebirth. Second Founder, Wayne Montgomery Musgrave, Yale 1907, then serving as Grand Junior President, wrote the foreword and took charge of the publication. His foreword notes that only two songs could be attributed to an author and a few songs were just listed with “words and airs” only as “no publisher consulted could furnish the music from which an adaptation could be made.” The improved organization and recordkeeping that came with the newly re-founded national fraternity would help future publications to more complete and better attributed.

The Grand Chapters of 1919, 1921 and 1923 appointed committees of brothers from all over the country to assemble an updated songbook that would feature new songs, not those from the period prior to the Second Founding. There was great difficulty reported in assembling the publication as many of the chapters (all within fifteen years of their founding) had developed songs and passed them down from year to year, but very few had written them down and even fewer had written out the arrangements with lyrics and music. With the delay in producing a songbook the convention delegates themselves used their shared audience to perform, learn and teach fraternity songs at the conventions. Attendees will find today’s Grand Chapter meetings honor that tradition and continue to showcase the learning, teach and performing of Alpha Sigma Phi songs.

The long wait for a second songbook ended in 1925 and the second edition of the Alpha Sigma Phi songbook was offered in The Tomahawk during the late 1920s for seventy-five cents. Revisions and additions to the songbook took place at the order of the Grand Chapters and were published in 1952 and 1961. By 1961 the price had risen to one dollar for a 56-page book of songs.

The early 1950s also saw the beginning of involvement of Lowell F. Riley, Ohio Wesleyan ’32 who had been a new member alongside Executive Secretary Ralph F. Burns, Ohio Wesleyan ’32. Brother Riley arranged and introduced the updated songbook, now titled Let’s Sing; Songs of Alpha Sigma Phi at the 1952 Grand Chapter to much fanfare – even convincing the Lehigh University chapter’s glee club to unveil the arrangements to convention attendees with live performances. Brother Riley would bring Alpha Sigma Phi songs from the page to vinyl during the 1960s.

In June of 1966 Brother Riley and a 20-voice male chorus recorded 28 tracts for an album of Alpha Sigma Phi music. Issued that Fall, Songs of Alpha Sigma Phi affectionately known for its jacket design as the white album, containing 48 minutes of Alpha Sigma Phi music spanning more than 100 years. It was sold from the Fraternity Headquarters for more than thirty years and continues to be the only published recording of Alpha Sigma Phi songs and the vehicle from which many Alpha Sigs became familiar with the Fraternity’s rich musical heritage.

A feature story on the history of each song in the songbook can be found here.
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WITHIN THE MYSTIC CIRCLE

WORDS BY C.B. Ketcham, Ohio Wesleyan 1913

MUSIC BY L.M. Morrison, Ohio Wesleyan 1913

Traditional

Moderato

Tenor I

Joy-ously to thee we raise, Alpha Sigma Phi,
Many are the friend-ships dear, Made with-in thy halls,

Tenor II

Joy-ously to thee we raise, Alpha Sigma Phi,
Many are the friend-ships dear, Made with-in thy halls,

Bass I

Joy-ously to thee we raise, Alpha Sigma Phi,
Many are the friend-ships dear, Made with-in thy halls,

Bass II

Joy-ously to thee we raise, Alpha Sigma Phi,
Many are the friend-ships dear, Made with-in thy halls,

Piano

Songs of loy-al-ty and praise Which shall nev-er die,
Many mem-ories we re-vere Clust-`ring round thy walls.

Songs of loy-al-ty and praise Which shall nev-er dies.
Many mem-ories we re-vere Clust-`ring round thy walls.

Songs of loy-al-ty and praise Which shall nev-er die.
Many mem-ories we re-vere Clust-`ring round thy walls.

Songs of loy-al-ty and praise Which shall nev-er die.
Many mem-ories we re-vere Clust-`ring round thy walls.

Songs of loy-al-ty and praise Which shall nev-er die.
Many mem-ories we re-vere Clust-`ring round thy walls.
Within The Mystic Circle, p. 2

Thou our inspiration art; Ne'er shall an y heart
Which, tho' far from thee we be, Shall in loyalty

From thy Mystic Circle part, Alpha Sigma Phi.
Clos er bind our hearts to thee, Alpha Sigma Phi.

a tempo

acc. cresc.

dim.
EVENING SHADOWS

WORDS & MUSIC BY
William Eben Schultz, Yale 1915

Joyously to thee we raise, Alpha Sigma Phi,
Many are the friendships dear, Made within thy halls,

Songs of loyalty and praise Which shall never die,
Many memories we revere Clustering round thy walls.

Moderato
OUR BROTHERHOOD

WORDS & MUSIC BY
George R. Cowgill, Yale 1919

With Spirit

O broth-ers while to-geth-er let's sing of brother-hood; It ev-er shall stand for all that's glo-rious! O broth-ers while to-geth-er let's sing of our brother-hood; It ev-er shall stand for Al-pha Sig-ma Phil. So a
Our Brotherhood p. 2

rollicking song for Alpha Sigma Phi, Our hearts with joy shall supply. We’re brothers under the mystic sign, Of Alpha Sigma Phi. Yeal of Alpha Sigma Phi. So a Phi.
FOR HE’S AN ALPHA SIG

Martial

For he’s an Alpha Sig, He’s a man you ought to know. For he’s an Alpha Sig, He’s not too fast and not too slow. He’s a gentleman and a scholar with a heart beneath his vest: He looks like all the others, but he’s better than the rest. For he’s an Alpha Sig, He’s a man you ought to, a man you want to, a man you’re sure to know!
CARDINAL AND GRAY

Freely  Melody in Second Tenor

Oh, the Cardinal and the Gray, For ever and for aye, Will

pledge again, while life remains, Dear Alpha Sigma Phi.
LOYALTY SONG

WORDS BY Ralph Wienke, Missouri Valley 1950
TUNE BY Washington and Lee Swing

Now everyone knows Alpha Sigma Phi,
That they are best just cannot be denied.

They have that style, that smile, that friendly way,
No matter where you'll go, you'll recognize them.

Fast

Moderate
and you'll say Now they're the Greeks I'd like to know.

They've got that Alpha Sig "fight" "zip" and "go!"

And just to see them smile is quite a treat, can't be beat,

Alpha Sigma Phi!
PRAISE TO THEE

Moderato

Praise to thee we'll sing forever

Alpha Sigma Phi! Hail to Alpha Sigma Phi! There's no trouble that can

sever our true friendship's lasting tie. We will

cherish loyalty. When into the world we go. Our be-
lovd' fra-tern-i-ty Whom we love and hon-or so, And of thee we'll ev-er think And for thee we'll ev-er sigh, And re-call the days of pleas - ure spent with our own Al-pha Sig-ma Phi.
THE TIE

WORDS BY Wesley H. Hine, Stanford 1921
MUSIC BY Myron C. Higby, Stanford 1913

Let's sing to Alpha Sigma Phi, A brotherhood so true. We learned the way to light our day, with truth and wisdom too. With its mystic circle bond, the obligation tie, Prepares the heart to never part, from Alpha Sigma Phi!
COME, LET’S GATHER

WORDS BY C.B. Ketcham, Ohio Wesleyan 1913

MUSIC BY L.M. Morrison, Ohio Wesleyan 1913

Come, let’s gather once again and sing a song with spirit bold and high;

From our lips the praises proudly ring of dear old Alpha Sigma Phi. Well pledge our hearts, our lives, our love as in the happy days gone by;

Let the words that ever linger near, be the name of dear old Alpha Sigma Phi!
PRAISE ALPHA SIGMA PHI

WORDS BY C.E. Perry, Penn 1921

MUSIC BY E.R. Tourison, Jr., Penn 1919

Moderato

Thru all our days well sing the praise of Of all old Sigma men.

Well loudly shout her virtues out And her grand name deepen.

The friendships form’d within her walls The test of time deepen.

Well proudly bear the emblem fair Of Alpha Sigma Phi.

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Tempodi Marcia

This song we raise in joyous praise.

Of all that she has done.

The friendly aid, the men she's made

And battles she has won.

We'll ne'er forget the men we've met.

Until the day we die.

We'll proudly bear the emblem fair.

Of Alpha Sigma Phi.
DU-DA

Come join ye sons of Sigma Phi, Du-da,
ev'ry voice now swell the song, Du-da,
du-da, And sing her praises loud and high,
du-da, And speed the flying notes a-long.

O de du-da day. Let day.
O de du-da We're
Bound to sing all night, We're bound to sing all day, We'll sing of Alpha Sigma Phi Forever and forever We're aye.

1. D.C.

2.

3.

Where has the earth a spot so grand when the girls on Chapel Street
Du-da, du-da
As here in Sigma Phi we see A-Sigma Phi man chance to meet
O de du-da day O de du-da day
Where has dull care so little power with upturned lip and downcast eye
Du-da, du-da
And flies so fast the passing hour On him they smile, for him they sigh
O de du-da day O de du-da day
HURRAH!

WORDS & MUSIC BY
Kenneth W. Anderson, Middlebury 1925

In marching rhythm

Hur-rah, Hur-rah, a happy bunch are we,

Faithful with sincerity to our belov’d fraternity, Hur-

\( \text{\footnotesize In marcato} \)

\[ \text{\footnotesize In marching rhythm} \]
Hurrah, hurrah, let's sing as we march along.
Experience proves you can't go wrong if you join our happy throng. Heave your sighs up to the skies. You'll be a bigger and better man in Alpha Sigma Phi. Heave your Phi.
A TOAST

WORDS & MUSIC BY

R. van der Bie, Wisconsin 1916

Al-pha Sig-ma Phi to thee we sing, Our songs of love and loy-al praise, A

t-ru e fra-ter-ni-ty whose home, we shared in gold-en col-le ge days.

May our great-ness ev-er grow, and as the years roll by, Well

drink to her health and wish her well, Dear old Al-pha Sig-ma Phi!
FOND RECOLLECTIONS

Slowly

Melody in Second Tenor

Here's to dear old Sigma Phi, The mystic circle's binding tie, We lift our glasses high to you, In the spirit of brotherhood true. Here's to our old Gal, so dear, For her we will always cheer, So let us work and boost for Pi of (let us sing 'til morning's nigh.)

Alpha Sigma Phi.

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TO THE GLORY OF ALPHA SIGMA PHI

WORDS BY
Larry Taylor, Stanford 1944 & Norm Hamilton, Stanford 1950

With Spirit

From the forty seven states that make the Union, And from Texas and other countries too:
All the best come here to band together, All the rest look on to see what's new!
Here to band together, All the rest look on to see what's new.
So we Sigs will drink again together, As we fill our steins and raise them high,

To the glory of the fighting Alpha Sigma men. Marching forward with Alpha Sigma Phi!

To the glory of the fighting Alpha Sigma men, Marching forward with Alpha Sigma Phi!
THE TABLE’S SET

Bright

The table’s set, the feast is met, the hall is gay and merry. Good fellows all are gathered here to drink a glass of sherry. So grab a stein of beer or wine and join right in the swing: Let glasses clink, and take a drink as merrily we sing. So
Chorus

drink, drink, drink to our fra-ter-ni-ty. Drink, drink, drink, for she
means so much to me. Good fel-low-ship is form-ing there, Oh may it nev-er die: So

drink, drink, drink to Al-ph-a Sig-ma Phi
HERE’S HEALTH TO
ALPHA SIGMA PHI

Moderato

1. Here’s health to Alpha Sigma. God bless the dear old
   soul, Full bump-ers may she ev-er drink of
   for-tune from life’s bowl, Of

2. She’s as hale and fresh as ev-er. For sor-rows hers are
   few, And smooth’s the brow and green’s the strength When
   hearts are brave and true, The

3. Now “Al-pha and O-me-ga” are The first and last we
   know, But Sig-ma Phi is Al-pha, boys. The
   first with friend and foe, The
fortune from life's bowl, And may she always
hearts are brave and true, And Sigma Phi shall
first with friend and foe, Her rivals are O -

know success, The dear, the good old soul!
flourish aye, As years her age re - new.
me - gas boys, The last where e'er we go.

4.
Long live our Alma Mater, may
Her elms wave long and hale!
God bless the pretty girls that sigh
For Alpha's sons of Yale!
We'll cherish e'er the frail,
The proud coquette assail!
The fair and good we'll take to wife
And furnish boys for Yale.

5.
United then a glorious band.
We stand in Sigma Phi;
A mystic bond our hearts entwine
In adamantine tie
In adamantine tie
In adamantine tie
We'll never cease to love and bless
Our Alpha Sigma Phi.
SONS OF ALPHA SIGMA PHI

Allegro

1. We're a jolly bunch of Alpha Sigs And none of us gives a damn. We
2. O a Sig he died and went to heav'n and climb'd the golden star. And
3. O a Sig he died and went below and climb'd the fiery hill. He

eat and sleep and work and play And fuss when e'er we can. You'll
all his friends and broth-er Sigs were wait-ing for him there. But
perch'd himself on a red hot coal and smok'd a lousy pill. The

find us on the di-a mond You'll find us on the track. And we
when he reach'd the pearl-y gates He found he'd lost his cue, "You may
eyes of sat-an fill'd with glee. "We're glad to see you here, So come

bust right in - to ev-ry-thing And at stud - ies take a crack.
come right in," St. Pet-er said, "We're all good Sigs here too.
down, you son of a broth-er Sig. And well op-en a keg of beer."

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Chorus

1. Oh, A stands for Alpha, the rest for Sigma Phi. When you see two jolly boys, True until they die. That's the fundamental principle of Alpha Sigma Phi.

2 & 3. O, we're sons, we're sons, we're sons of Alpha Sigma Phi. O, we'll still be sons of sons of sons of Alpha Sigma Phi.

Good old Alpha Sig boys of Alpha Sigma Phi. And when our college days are o'er, And in the world we hie, O we'll
A TOAST TO ALPHA SIGMA PHI

WORDS BY Elwood N. Hart, Ohio State 1914
MUSIC BY Ralph D. Roehm, Ohio State 1917

With Spirit

1. Well, here's to dear old Sigma Phi, Fond-est
cost to coast our hearts are bound, Link'd with

mem'ries you re-call. For you we'll fight, we'll
ties which nev-er break. A "Sig" is a "Sig" where-

live or die. We're for you the first of all. We're
ever found. A brother's part he'll al-ways take. We

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with you ever right or wrong,

We're as true as sky-blue

sing of college life and pals,

May those friendships never

sky.

Blood grows warm and hearts beat strong

When it's die;

But, boys a toast to our "Old Gal."

For we

"Here's to Alpha Sigma Phi."

love you Alpha Sigma

2. From

Phi.
ALL HAIL, SIGMA PHI

WORDS & MUSIC BY
George R. Cowgill, Yale 1919

Here's to Alpha Sigma Phi, Sigma Phi.

This our toast shall be "All hail, Sigma Phi!" For thy dear

name we raise our voices on high,

Praising thy
glories which shall never die. Lifting our

glasses thus for aye, Bless'd be our

brotherhood in Alpha Sigma Phi.
SWEETHEART SONG

Moderato

Harmony

Who says sweetheart to you, Who calls you all his own?

Melody

Who says sweetheart to you, Who calls you all his own?

Talk - ing of love to the moon up a - bove? Tell me,

Talk - ing of love to the moon up a - bove? Tell me,
whose eyes gaz ing in yours, Make all your dreams come true?

Who has the right to kiss you good night? Tell me,
whose Alpha Sig Girl are you?
whose eyes gazing in yours, Make all your dreams come true?

Who has the right to kiss you good-night? Tell me,

whose Alpha Sig Girl are you?

whose Alpha Sig Girl are you?
ALPHA SIG SWEETHEART

WORDS & MUSIC BY
David Strckler, Ohio Wesleyan 1930 & George Tod, Ohio Wesleyan 1930

Moderate Waltz

1. The shadow of night softly falls,
   And birds to their sleep-y mates call.

2. The moon-light is kissing the trees,
   Warm summer breeze.

My thoughts are turning, and my heart is yearning,
For the one who is sweet-est of all.

Your voice is singing, a melody
A vision, a memory of you.
THE SWEETEST GIRL

WORDS BY
Clinton Brown, Purdue 1940

MUSIC BY
Robert H. Matthew, Purdue 1947

Slowly

The sweetest girl of all I know, The girl that I adore. Will always be the one in my heart, The only girl for me. She's proud to wear the pin we share, And though the years pass by, I'll never part, from that dear old sweetheart, of Alpha Sigma Phi.

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IN SIGDOM'S NAME

WORDS BY Wm. F. Connelly, Penn 1915
MUSIC BY Ellwood V. Frayne, Penn 1917

Moderato

1. Hark, oh Sig-dom, to our call
   From the halls of Penn,
   Filled with thoughts of brotherhood
   For all old Sig-dom's men.

2. When our college days are o'er
   And life's battle's on,
   We'll remember friendships old,
   Form'd at Omicron.

We all cherish shining hopes,
   Plans of greater fame,
   Though we're in the busy world
   Beyond each other's ken.

While we strive and strive we must
   To high uphold our name.
   We shall all our duty do
   Raising Sigs for Penn.
Refrain

Marcia  Melody in Second Tenor

Brotherhood Imperial, United all we stand Bound by many mystic

Links, Throughout this glorious land
In Sigdom's Name, p. 3

Proud we bear our emblems, Of this mighty tie; And

we'll e'er be loyal, To Alpha Sigma Phi!

To Alpha Sigma Phi!
HAIL SIGMA PHI

WORDS BY H.D. Altsius, Yale 1911
MUSIC BY G.A. Relman, Yale 1911

Moderato

1. Long live our Sigma Phi, in hearts both young and old,
2. Come, drink life’s deep-est draughts, with hearts that ne’er will fail,

Long may the mystic tie, your broth-ers close en-fold
Come, join in sol-emnoaths, ‘neath Sig-ma’s se-cret veil.

Long may the mystic tie, your broth-ers close en-fold
Come, join in sol-emnoaths, ‘neath Sig-ma’s se-cret veil.
Life high a mighty cry, ye loyal Sigs of Yale,
Come, fire light's gleaming, 'mid Alpha's sacred walls,

Let echoes loud reply, Hail, Sigma Phi!
Well shoot till rocks shall ring, Hail, Sigma Phi!

Life high a mighty cry, ye loyal Sigs of Yale,
Come, fire light's gleaming, 'mid Alpha's sacred walls,
DELTA CHAPTER SONG

TUNE

Wait For The Wagon
R. Bishop Buckley

With good swing

Come all ye sons of star is ever bound to win the

Del-ta And drown your hearts in song, In strains of joy and gladness Let shining From its ex-alt-ed height, Fore it the rest are pal-ing Their bat-tle And keep our stand-ard high, It ne'er shall pale its glor-ies Nor
dull and bor-row'd light; For glorious Al-pha's spir-it Has come to us from
each the song pro-long; And drown all signs of sor-row And let each heart beat in dis-hon-or fly; Then shout we all to-geth-er For glorious Del-ta

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Free, And only glad notes pealing To our fraternity.
Yale, Her sons did never falter Nor in devotion fail.
Shout, And cheerily the chorus From willing hearts ring out.

Shout boys for Delta, Shout boys for Delta, O shout boys for

Delta, Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah. Hurrah. Our rah. We're
FRESHMAN SONG

WORDS & MUSIC BY
G.W. Hartshorn, Penn 1925

Moderato

1. When first we came to town, We just cast our eyes a'round, To

2. Oh, Alpha Sigma Phi, Is the Apple of our eyes, It's the

3. We know that we shall be in this man's fraternity, 'Til the

see what wondrous men and things were nigh; But we

best fraternity in all this land. We've

time when we shall pass out cold and quit. So for

weren't here very long, Before we for Sigs were strong, And we

search'd the campus far, And we're glad we're where we are, For we're

now and ever more, We shall never shirk a chore, And we'll
chose and love our Alpha Sigma Phi,
mem - bers of a strong and loy - al band.
al - ways try to do a good - ly bit.

Chorus

And so we'll pledge our health; We'll pledge our wealth; We'll give without a
sigh. Our hearts are true, We Freshmen are with you, In Alpha Sigma Phi.

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WAKE, FRESHMAN, WAKE

With Spirit

1. The stars brightly glancing, Behold us advancing, And kindly smile upon us from on high; Our summons awaiting, With triumphs over those who with us vie; Once laid on our altar, Your we their doors in silence dead pass by; But, O fortunately! O

2. Our anthems, loud swelling, Are truthfully telling, Our hearts loudly beating, The freshmen trembling on their couches lie. hearts ne’er shall falter, Your watchword ever, Yale and Beta XI. terque be-ta-ti! Who hear the mystic call of Beta XI.

3. While some sadly ponder, Still others will wonder Why Wake! Wake! Freshmen, wake! Wake while our song smites the sky, For now, ere we leave you, We heartily give you, A welcome into Delta Beta XI. (Alpha Sigma Phi)
SOPHOMORE SONG

WORDS BY
Ward N. Madison, Yale 1923

MUSIC BY
George R. Cowgill, Yale 1919

Come, Soph - o-mores, to you to-night De - ci - sion grave to
Now know - ledge is a fear - ful thing, Oh Soph - o-mores, you
make; You must de - cide the ones to slight and the one that you will
know; Taste not nor - drink deep of its spring since you to Yale would
take. Re - mem - ber as you look a-round there's one you'll not pass
go. Take up the joys out - side of class, to stud - ies say good -
by, It's that ex - alt - ed Brother - hood in Al - pha Sigma Phi.
by, For you will nev - er fail to pass in Al - pha Sigma Phi.