

Contents

Acknowledgments	ix
Permissions and Acknowledgments	xi
Introduction	xv
Chapter 1. A prodigy and his family have a narrow escape	1
The Holocaust	6
Lax family	6
Chapter 2. Manhattan, NY, and Manhattan Project. An army private among the “Martians”	17
Into the army	19
Manhattan Project. An army corporal among the Martians	20
NYU and the Courant Institute	33
Chapter 3. Family life: Son, husband, father, grandfather	35
Anneli Cahn	35
Jimmy	38
Johnny	42
Lori	45
Chapter 4. Early career	49
The advent of the computer	51
Becoming Peter Lax’s student	55
Chapter 5. The famous CDC 6600 bomb-scare adventure	69
Chapter 6. Later career	79
Chapter 7. The queen of Norway	91
Entr’acte. Peter’s stories	97
Chapter 8. Books	105
Chapter 9. Pure AND applied, not VERSUS applied	113
Computing	118
Partial differential equations and the real world, a beginner’s primer	121
Thinking geometrically about dynamical systems: Phase space	125
Function spaces, functional analysis	126
Nonlinearity	129

Chapter 10. Difference schemes. Shocks. Solitons. Scattering. Lax-Milgram. Pólya's curve, etc.	133
Difference equations and computing	133
Shock waves	135
Solitons	142
The nonlinear Schrödinger equation occurs in water waves	148
Scattering theory	150
Differentiability of the Pólya function	154
Lax-Milgram lemma	156
Algebraic hyperbolicity	156
Epilogue	159
Appendix 1. Anneli Lax	161
Appendix 2. John von Neumann: The early years, the years at Los Alamos, and the road to computing	167
Appendix 3. The life of Richard Courant	175
Appendix 4. Peter D. Lax curriculum vitae	187
Appendix 5. The closed graph theorem	199
Appendix 6. List of Peter Lax's doctoral students (from the Mathematics Genealogy Project)	203
John Lax	207
Appendix 7. From <i>A Liberal Education</i> , by Abbott Gleason, pages 314–317 on John Lax	209
Appendix 8. John Lax article on Chicago jazz musicians	213
References	229
Index	233