

CRANBROOK

ARCHIVES

The Cranbrook Music Guild

Records, 1950-2007 (Bulk 1960-1990)
7 linear ft.

Accession Number:	1995-85
Acquisition:	The collection was transferred to the Cranbrook Archives by the Cranbrook Music Guild in August of 1989. Additional records were added to the collection in 1995 and October of 2005.
Access:	Access to the collection is unrestricted.
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Index:	See end of finding aid.
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History

Early in 1951, a dinner party was held at the home of John Coulter. Two guests, Dr. Maurice Garabrant and Mrs. Betty Brewster, enthusiastically discussed how the beauty of the Cranbrook properties would be a wonderful setting for a music festival. Garabrant had recently come to Christ Church Cranbrook as Organist and Choir Master.

Brewster and Garabrant brought together several music lovers to form a committee in order to organize a concert at the Cranbrook Greek Theater. Henry S. Booth, son of Cranbrook founders George and Ellen Booth, was one of the original eleven members of this committee, which produced the first Cranbrook Festival concert performance on June 10, 1951. The concert was such a success that the patrons of the event urged the committee members to continue their efforts and bring more “fine music” to Cranbrook.

During the months that followed, the committee met to discuss the formulation of a more structured organization. On February 11, 1952, approximately thirty people met for dinner at "Valhalla", home of Mr. and Mrs. Graham John Graham, to adopt the Cranbrook Music Guild constitution and by-laws. This organization promoted fine music at Cranbrook, and provided scholarships and performance opportunities for young artists. Its objective was: (1) to provide "high quality programs of all types of music and related arts at Cranbrook in their most appropriate settings; (2) to provide knowledge and appreciation of music and related arts by the people of the community and the students of Cranbrook in particular; (3) the writing and performance of new music and related arts at Cranbrook and elsewhere; (4) the development of high caliber performers of all branches of music and related arts and the most effective use of their talents throughout life."

The Cranbrook Music Guild steadily grew and thrived through the 1960's. They sponsored the “Bach at Cranbrook” festival in 1966 which became an annual event. The festival was a three day series of concerts in May separate from the rest of the concert season. The running of this festival was entrusted to an independent committee. In 1970 the “Bach at Cranbrook” festival became known as the “Cranbrook Festival” and was eventually dissolved in 1979. Cranbrook Music Guild memberships declined during the 1970's and into the 1990's. However, there was a resurgence of membership in the early 2000's.

The Cranbrook Music Guild currently sponsors several concerts of chamber music for its members during annual seasons which run from October to May. As of 2011, the Cranbrook Music Guild is still in operation. It has worked to bring talented musicians to Cranbrook to perform beautiful chamber music for well over 50 years. The guild is a non-profit organization governed by a president and a board of trustees.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the Cranbrook Music Guild (CMG) are divided into the following series: ADMINISTRATIVE, CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS, and OVERSIZED. These records reflect the workings of an organization supporting and promoting music appreciation for the surrounding community.

SERIES I: ADMINISTRATIVE (Boxes 1-3) contains records relating to the beginning of the CMG, its history and structure. This series includes the Cranbrook Music Guild constitution and by-laws and includes CMG contracts with musicians and groups, financial data and reports, and membership information. It presents an overview of the development of the CMG seasons and insight into the CMG budget. Notes on board meetings, meeting agendas, and official meeting minutes are found in this series including ledgers which contain organizational meeting information. Materials relative to special projects, including committees and grants, are also located in this series.

Cranbrook Festival origins, budget, meeting minutes, and its dissolution are contained in here as well.

SERIES II: CORRESPONDENCE (Box 4) is divided between general guild correspondence and correspondence specific to the Cranbrook Festival. It is arranged chronologically and covers 1950-2001 with Festival correspondence covering the mid 1960's through 1980.

SERIES III: EVENTS AND PROGRAMS (Box 5) includes newspaper clippings (1950's and into the 2000's), published programs and related materials for the various events associated with CMG seasons and Cranbrook Festivals as well as press releases and biographical materials on performers.

SERIES IV: OVERSIZED (Box 6) holds a large scrapbook and several small posters.

Related Collections

- Henry Scripps and Carolyn Farr Booth Papers (1982-05)

Box Number--Description

SERIES I: ADMINISTRATIVE

Box 1

1. Articles of Incorporation
2. Business Data Notes
3. By-laws
4. Constitution
5. Contracts and Agreements – 1952-1989
6. Contracts and Agreements – 1991-1999
7. Contracts and Agreements – 2000-2001
8. Contracts and Agreements, Festival – 1968-1970
9. Contracts and Agreements, Festival – 1971-1974
10. Contracts and Agreements, Festival – 1975-1979
11. Donations and Memorials – 1996-2002, n.d.
12. Educational Committee – 1961-1965
13. Festival Executive Committee – 1975-1979
14. Festival Origins – 1951-1960, n.d.
15. Festival Sustaining Fund – 1967-1979, n.d.
16. Festival Ticket and Ushers Instructions – 1970-1979, n.d.
17. Financials – 1952-1959
18. Financials – 1960-1969
19. Financials – 1970-1979
20. Financials – 1980-1989
21. Financials – 1990-2002
22. Financials, Festival – 1966-1969, n.d.
23. Financials, Festival – 1970-1972
24. Financials, Festival – 1973-1974
25. Financials, Festival – 1975-1976
26. Financials, Festival – 1977-1980
27. Financials, Tax Exemption
28. Gift Fund – 1955-1965
29. Grants – 1966-1976, n.d.

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1. History
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4. Ledgers, Meeting Minutes and Reports – 1954-1962
5. Ledgers, Meeting Minutes and Reports – 1962-1971
6. Ledgers, Meeting Minutes and Reports – 1972-1978
7. Ledgers, Meeting Minutes and Reports – 1979-1985
8. Ledgers, Meeting Minutes and Reports – 1985-1990
9. Ledgers, Meeting Minutes and Reports – 1989-1997

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11. Meetings and Notes – 1951-1953
12. Meetings and Notes – 1954-1956
13. Meetings and Notes – 1957-1958
14. Meetings and Notes – 1959
15. Meetings and Notes – 1960-1961
16. Meetings and Notes – 1962-1965
17. Meetings and Notes – 1966-1969

Box 3

1. Meetings and Notes – 1970-1973
2. Meetings and Notes – 1974-1975
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18. Meetings and Notes, Festival '77 – 1976-1977
19. Meetings and Notes, Festival '78 – 1977-1978
20. Meetings and Notes, Festival '79-dissolution – 1978-1980
21. Members and Prospects – 1951-1997, n.d.
22. Members and Prospects, Festival – 1970-1979, n.d.
23. Membership Committee – 1952-1959, n.d.
24. Membership Committee – 1960-2001
25. Notes, Kalamazoo Bach Festival
26. Special Projects – n.d.
27. Special Projects – 1950-1951
28. Special Projects – 1952-1957
29. Special Projects – 1964-1982
30. Special Projects – 1986 Report

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SERIES IV: OVERSIZED

Box 6

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