

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts

No. 53

Date processed: Dec., 1976

- I. Title The Woman's Choral Society of New Haven. Records, 1927-1959.
- II. The papers of the Woman's Choral Society of New Haven
~~deposited in the Library on~~ ^{by}
In ~~converted the deposit to~~ a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 2 feet & 1 inch
Approximate number of items: 1708
- IV. Restrictions: none
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of
in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of
the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated
to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.

VI. Press release was issued on

VII. Biographical note:

The Women's Choral Society of New Haven was founded in 1927 by Mrs. Mary Loveridge Robbins, who served as its first president. The group was composed mostly of non-professional singers who gathered "to study and present representational choral works of all schools from the 16th century to the present". From 1927 to 1959 the group presented concerts of their own plus those in combination with other musical organizations and also assisted at public functions requiring musical talent.

The New Haven society was affiliated with the Connecticut State Federation of Music Clubs and with the National Federation of Music Clubs. In 1959 the Woman's Choral Society of New Haven disbanded, and many of its members joined the New Haven Chorale.

VIII. Analysis:

The collection consists of 5 boxes of documents (including 8 scrapbooks, circa 600 pages) containing complete sets of minutes of all meetings, annual reports of committee chairmen, lists of executive board members, active and associate members, concert programs, and press clippings - covering the period from 1928 to 1959 inclusive.

There are also assorted incomplete papers from various committees, e.g., music lists, attendance sheets, photographs, etc. and material from other musical groups affiliated or associated with the Woman's Choral Society. For further information see the Table on Contents (p.1-10).

The material is filed by date within each folder except where otherwise indicated (Applications for membership are filed alphabetically by applicant's last name). The numbers in parentheses on the left give the approximate number of documents in each folder.

THE WOMAN'S CHORAL SOCIETY OF NEW HAVEN

1927-1959

Table of ContentsBOX I - Administration

(Minutes, Annual Reports, Constitution and By-Laws)

Folder A - Minutes 1929-1941 inclusive

Minutes of Executive Board regular and special meetings, business meetings preceding rehearsals
 approx. (100) documents
 Minutes of Annual Meetings 1929-1941 inclusive
 (from notebooks of Recording Secretaries - handwritten - some duplicates)

Folder B - Minutes 1942-1951 inclusive

Minutes of Executive Board regular and special meetings
 (100) Minutes of Annual Meetings - 1942-1951 inclusive
 (from notebooks of Recording Secretaries - hand and typewritten - some duplicates)

Folder C - Minutes 1952-1959 inclusive

Minutes of Executive Board regular and special meetings
 (90) Minutes of Annual Meetings 1952-1959 inclusive
 (from notebooks of Recording Secretaries)

Folder D - Programs - Annual Meetings

(5) Detailed agenda for Annual Meetings of 1943, 1946, 1947, 1957, 1958 - including speeches, remarks, etc.

Folder E - *Annual Reports of Committee Chairmen 1928-29 - 1941-42

1928-29 - Recording Secretary, Treasurer
 1929-30 - President, Recording Secretary
 1930-31 - Corresponding Sec., President, Recording Sec., Treasurer
 1931-32 - Corres. Sec., Treasurer
 1932-33 - Corres. Sec., Librarian, President, Publicity, Recording Sec., Treasurer
 1933-34 - Corres. Sec., President, Publicity, Recording Sec., Treasurer
 (80) 1934-35 - Corres. Sec., President, Publicity, Recording Sec., Treasurer
 1935-36 - President, Recording Sec., Treasurer
 1936-37 - Auditions, Auditor, Corresp. Sec., Historian, Librarian, Nominating, President (2 copies), Program, Publicity, Recording Sec., Treasurer, Ways & Means
 1937-38 - Auditors, Corresponding Sec., Historian, Librarian, Membership, President, Program, Publicity (3), Recording Sec., Treasurer
 1938-39 - Auditions, Corresp. Sec., First Vice-Pres., Librarian, President, Publicity, Recording Sec., Treasurer

Box I continuedFolder E - continued

- 1939-40 - Auditions, Auditors, Corresp. Sec., First Vice-Pres.,
Historian, Librarian, Nominating, President, Program,
Publicity, Recording Sec., Treasurer
- 1940-41 - Auditions, Auditors, Corresp. Sec., Historian, Librarian,
President, Program, Publicity, Recording Sec., Assistant
Recording Sec., Treasurer, Ways & Means
- 1941-42 - Auditions, Auditor, Corresp. Sec., Historian, Librarian,
Membership, Nominating (2), President, Program, Publicity,
Recording Sec., Ass't Recording Sec., (2), Treasurer

* All Annual Reports (Folders E, F, G) are filed by year and
alphabetically by committee within the year

Folder F - Annual Reports of Committee Chairmen 1942-43 - 1949-50

- 1942-43 - Auditions, Auditors, Corresp. Sec., Historian, Librarian,
Membership (2), President, Program, Publicity, Recording
Sec., Ass't Recording Sec., (2), Treasurer, Ways & Means
- 1943-44 - Auditions, Auditors, Corres. Sec., Historian, Librarian,
Membership, Nominating, President, Publicity, Ass't
Recording Sec., Treasurer, Ways & Means
- 1944-45 - Auditions, Auditor, Corres. Sec., Historian, Librarian,
Membership, Nominating, Program, Ass't Recording Sec., (2),
Treasurer, Ways & Means
- (110) 1945-46 - Auditions, Librarian, Membership, Nominating, President (2),
Program, Publicity (2), Ass't Recording Sec., (2),
Treasurer, Ways & Means
- 1946-47 - Auditions, Historian, Librarian, Membership, President (2),
Program, Publicity, Ass't Recording Sec., (2), Treasurer,
Ways & Means
- 1947-48 - Auditors, Corresp. Sec. (2), Historian, Librarian, Membership
Nominating (2), President, Program, Publicity (2), Ass't
Recording Sec. (2), Treasurer, Ways & Means
- 1948-49 - Auditors, Corresp. Sec. (2), Librarian, Membership,
Nominating, President, Program, Publicity (2), Ass't
Recording Sec. (2), Treasurer
- 1949-50 - Auditions (2), Auditors, Budget (2), Tentative Budget (2),
Librarian, Membership, President, Program (2), Publicity,
Ass't Recording Sec., Second Vice-President, Treasurer (2),
Ways & Means

Folder G - Annual Reports of Committee Chairmen 1950-51 - 1958-59

- 1950-51 - Auditions, Auditor, Historian, Librarian, Membership,
Nominating, President, Program (2), Publicity, Recording
Sec., Ass't Recording Sec., Treasurer (2), Ways & Means
- (106) 1951-52 - Auditions, Auditor, Budget, Corres. Sec., Historian,
Membership, Nominating, President, Program (2), Publicity,
Recording Sec., Treasurer, Ways & Means
- 1952-53 - Auditions, Auditor, Corresp. Sec., Historian, Membership,
Nominating (2), President, Program (2), Publicity,
Recording Sec., Treasurer (2)

Box I - continuedFolder G - continued

- 1953-54 - Auditions, Auditors (2), Budget (2), Corres. Sec.,
Historian, Hospitality, Librarian, Membership, President,
Program, Publicity, Recording Sec. (2), Treasurer (2),
Ways & Means (2)
- 1954-55 - Budget, Corresp. Sec., Historian, Hospitality, Librarian,
Membership, President, Program, Publicity, Recording Sec.,
Ass't Recording Sec., Treasurer (2), Ways & Means
- 1955-56 - Auditors (2), Corres. Sec., First Vice-President,
Hospitality, Librarian, Membership, Nominating, President,
Program, Publicity, Recording Sec., Ass't Recording Sec.,
Treasurer, Ways & Means
- 1956-57 - Auditions, Auditors, Budget (2), Corres. Sec., Historian,
Hospitality, Membership, President (2), Publicity,
Recording Sec., Ass't Recording Sec., (2), Treasurer,
Ways & Means
- 1957-58 - Budget (2), Historian, Hospitality, Librarian, Membership,
Nominating, President (2), Program (2), Publicity, Ass't
Recording Sec., Treasurer, Ways & Means, Recording Sec.,
- 1958-59 - Auditor, President, Treasurer (2)

Folder H - Constitution and By-Laws

- (12) Standing Rules of the Society -(hand lettered) no date
Printed copy of Standing Rules - with notes - no date
Paperbound copies of Constitution and By-Laws - 1929 - (annotated)
Typewritten - Constitution (1936)
Typewritten Constitution and By-Laws - 1936
Worksheets - revision of Constitution and By-laws 1955
Revised Constitution and By-Laws 1955
- Proposed amendments to By-Laws - 1937 (handwritten)
Proposed revision of By-Laws 1942-43
Revised By-Laws 1942-43
By-Law 7, Sect. 1-5 and Standing Rules (tyewritten- no date)
- Simplified Parliamentary Procedure
Constitution, by-laws, standing rules, no date (between
1937 and 1955)

BOX II - Committees

(Executive Board, Auditions, Membership, Librarian, Finance)

Folder A - Executive Board

- (46) Lists of Executive Board Members 1930-1958 (1939-40 missing)
Lists of duties of President
List of Items to be Considered by the Board
List of Order of a Regular Meeting
Duties of the Corresponding Secretary
Greetings to members from Executive Board (1934)
List of Committees and members - no date

Box II - continuedFolder B - Auditions Committee

- (6) Lists of women auditioning with comments on their singing and sight-reading etc. 1946 and 1954 (others undated)
Lists contain heights of women, and evenings they can attend rehearsals

Folder C - Applications for Membership 1945-1956 Alphabetical A-I

- (125) Filed Alphabetically by last name - some contain comments on auditions

Folder D - Applications for Membership 1945-1956 J-Z

- (125) Alphabetically by last name - comments on auditions

Folder E - Membership Committee

- (16) Membership blanks
Letters to prospective members
List of members accepted/rejected - (no date)
Form Letters of acceptance/rejection
Active Membership Card - Martha Ford

Folder F - Membership Lists - 1929-30 - 1944-45 inclusive

- (54) (many duplicates)
Lists of Active (singing) members for each year
Some listed alphabetically, some lists by parts (soprano, etc.)
Lists of Associate Members 1928-1931
Lists of Members dropping out - 1939-1943 -
Membership List kept by Corresponding Secretary - (from notebook, 1943)

Folder G - Membership Lists - 1945-46 - 1958-59 inclusive

- (50) one undated list - handwritten
Lists of Active Members - alphabetically and/or by parts
Lists of Associate Members - 1951, 1952

Folder H - Attendance Sheets - 1929-38 - 1940-1959

- (21) (1938-38 season missing)
From notebooks of Assistant Recording Secretaries

Folder I - Librarian

- (9) Lists of music issued to members and returned - 1928-1934
Library of Music of Society - 1956 - 12 pp.
Music for Disposal - no date - 7 pp. each
2 originals
2 copies with notes- pencilled additions on back
Library of Music of Society - 1959 - with notes

Box II - continuedFolder I - continued

List of available recorded works by contemporary American composers - with list of National Federation of Music Clubs Chamber Works on back

Folder J - Music (Librarian)

- (10) 3 paper bound music books -
7 typewritten sheets of words to various songs

Folder K - Financial Material -(Treasurer and Ways & Means)

- (47) Miscellaneous bills and receipts
Lists of number of tickets sold for fundraising events 1935-41
List of payments to conductors - 1937-41
Form letter to delinquents - 1930
IRS - exemption forms
Miscellaneous materials on:
Card party receipts - October 1949
Report on concert - tickets distributed -(no date)
Lobster dinner - December, 1953
List of members and number of tickets each sold 1953

BOX III - Committees

(Public Relations)

Folder A - Publicity Committee - Miscellaneous Material

- (50) Analysis of Publicity articles -humorous material for PR chairman 1941
"Do You Enjoy Singin?" - article for Bulletin Boards - 1947-49
(four copies with corrections)
List of duties of Public Relations Chairman - no date
Press Releases- 1947-48 (typewritten)
Opening season
Dessert bridge March 20, 1948 - 8 releases
Spring Concert , April, 1948
Announcement of Annual Meeting
Press releases - 1948-49
Announcing 22nd season
Rummage sale - October, 1948
Card party- November, 1949 - 4 for Register and Courier
Annual meeting - 1949
Press release - 1951 - 24th Spring Concert
20th Anniversary brochure, 1947
25th Anniversary brochure, 1952

Folder B - Public Relations- Photographs

- (22) plus duplicates-
loose photographs - some dated 1949-1959 - 11 not dated
most do not name those in photographs

Box III Public Relations - continuedFolder C - *Press Clippings 1927-1936

From scrapbooks -
one scrapbook- 1927-28 - 1935-36 inclusive

(39 pp.) * clippings about activities and members of the society and related organizations - all have date and name of newspaper under clipping . Folders C-F -(some photographs and programs included)

Folder D - Press Clippings 1931-1934

From four scrapbooks
Sept., 1930-May, 1931
June, 1931 - June, 1932
September, 1932 - May, 1933
September, 1933- May, 1934

(51 pp.)

Folder E - Press Clippings 1934-1937

(35 pp.) One Scrapbook - 1934-5 season through 1936-37 season inclusive

Folder F - Press Clippings 1936- 1939

(28 pp.) One scrapbook 1936-37 season through 1938-39 season inclusive

Box IV - Committees

(Public Relations- Press Clippings - continued)
Program Committee)

Folder A - Press Clippings 1937-42

(44 pp.) One scrapbook 1937-42 - overlaps with scrapbook in Box III, Folders E & F

Folder B - Press Clippings 1943-52

(34 pp.) Scrapbook continued from Folder A 1943-52 inclusive

Folder C - Press Clippings 1939-46

(33 pp.) Scrapbook - 1939-40 season through 1945-46 season inclusive
This scrapbook (continued in Folder D) overlaps scrapbook in Folders A & B, Box IV

Folder D - Press Clippings 1947-1952

(30 pp.) Scrapbook continued from Folder C - 1947-48 season through 1951-52 season - inclusive

BOX IV - continuedFolder E - Press Clippings 1952-1958

(28 pp.) Scrapbook continued from Folders C & D
1952-53 season through 1957-58 season

Folder F - Press Clippings - loose - 1928-1958

(140) Loose clippings ranging from small announcements to long articles on the society and its members - most are duplicates of those in scrapbooks (Box IIII Folders C-F & Box IV, Folders A-E). Most of the clippings are dated on the back.

Folder G - Program Committee

(14) Records of concerts - 1928
Rehearsals - schedules 1944-48; two are not dated
Typewritten programs for concerts - 1951, 1953; 3 no date
Mockup for concert program, April, 1951

Folder H - Flyers Announcing Upcoming Concerts

(8) 1948-1952; 1955, 1956, 1958

Folder I - Woman's Choral Society Concert Programs - 1928-1940 inclusive

(27) Some duplicates - some annotated in pencil

BOX V - Committees continued & Miscellaneous

(Program committee, other organizations, correspondence)

Folder A - Concert Programs - continued - 1941-1958 inclusive

(22) April 29, 1947 autographed by H.L. Smith, conductor; Helen Boatwright and W. Gant, solosits - some annotated

Folder B - Programs- Woman's Choral Society Concerts with other groups

(7) Choral Society assisted: New Haven Symphony 1937, 1941, 1948;
New Haven Council on International Relations Meeting, 1934;
Tercentenary Concert, Yale Bowl 1938; Naugatuck Valley
Glee Club 1941; University Glee Club, April 15, 1942
(handwritten note on back of program with story about
Eleanor Roosevelt)

Box V - continuedFolder C - Tickets

- (9) Concert tickets, 1949, 1951-54, 1958
Fundraising events 1949, 1953-

Folder D - Woman's Choral Society - Miscellaneous Material

- (16) Statement read to chorus 1/23 n.d.
Dance programs 1931
Guaranty Fund Contributors 1949-50
Poem - appreciation for Christmas party - 1950
Police License- Woolsey Hall, 1952
Yale Univ. Weekly Calendar 1955-
Latin pronunciation
List of Patrons n.d.
miscellaneous scraps of paper- mailing lists, sketch for cover

Folder E - Connecticut State Federation of Music Clubs

- (29) Constitution and By-Laws -1933
Amendments to By-Laws - no date
Amendments to By-Laws - 1932
Call to Convention, 1938, 1946-, 1950
Convention programs 1932, 1936, 1938, 1940, 1944, 1950
Annual Meeting program 1953
Reports to convention from New Haven club 1936, 1946, 1953
Report on convention - 2 - 1938 and no date
Attendance Bridgeport Convethion 1936
Membership Certificates 1932-33
Concert program E. B. Taylor 1932, program 1953 for benefit of CSFMC.
1932 Luncheon program
Request for year book literature 1932
Bulletin- 1939-30
Directories 1939-40, 1945-46, 1956-57

Folder F - National Federation of Music Clubs

- (8) Organization Handbook 1937-39
Report on 16th Biennial Convention - Boston - 1929
Program - 21st Biennial Convention - Baltimore
By-Laws - 1947
Letter to local clubs 1947
Call to 24th Biennial Convention - 1947
Credentials - order blank for proceedings book
1953 - Printed description of actlvities and functions
of National Federation

Folder G - Other Music Groups

- (33) Concert Programs: Yale/Smith Glee Clubs; Yale Choral Society, 1951-52;
Ohio Wesleyan Woman's Glee Club, 1953; Albertus Magnus Glee Club,
1950; and others - 1936- 1953
Flyers concerning organization of New Haven Chorale - 1952 announcement

Box V - continuedFolder G - continued

of concert, letter asking for funds
 New Haven Symphony flyer- subscription form
 Announcements: 1948 season of University Glee Club, 5th Annual
 Symposium 1951- Yale School of Music
 Connecticut Symphony Fund flyer - no date

Folder H - Presidents Miscellaneous Correspondence

(45) Mrs. Robbins 1933-36
 Mrs. Hicks - 1937
 Mrs. Ford - 1946-47
 Miss Celantano - 1948-49
 Mrs. Gammons - 1957

Folder I - Committees Correspondence

(48) (Listed Alphabetically by committee
 Librarian- re rehearsals
 Membership - re Frederick O. Robbins Scholarship Fund
 letters of rejection/ acceptance
 information about joining Society
 Nominating -
 Public Relations - 1947-49 Chairman's correspondence
 Treasurer -re insurance
 Ways & Means - acknowledgement of gifts

Folder J - Letters of Resignation and Acknowledgements

(43) 1935-1957 - not inclusive
 filed by date -
 resignations from the Society and from the Board

Folder K - Form Letters to Associate Members

(20) Annual letters concerning concerts and annual meetings
 1937, 1940, 1946-1952, 1954-58.

Folder L - Correspondence with Conductors - 1953

(14) Concerning resignation of Parke Bernard and rehiring of Frank Widdis
 Resume - P. Bernard; list of problems concerning Bernard

Box 1 - Correspondence - continuedFolder M - Personal Correspondence

- (23) 1929-58 not inclusive - filed by date where possible
 (15 undated)
 acknowledgements of condolences
 thank-you notes
 Christmas and post cards

Folder N - Correspondence - Connecticut and National Federation of Music Clubs

- (21) Connecticut Federation of Music Clubs - Miscellaneous correspondence
 to and from New Haven group .
 National Federation of Music Clubs - four letters, 1938-39-48-59
 Correspondence ranges from letter to Mrs. Robbins (December, 1928)
 welcoming New Haven into Conn. Federation to
 letter from Mrs. Gammons, president of New Haven group informing
 National Federation of dissolution of New Haven society.

Folder O - Correspondence Concerning Contributions to Other Groups

- (21) Neighborhood Music School - nine letters 1934-59
 re scholarship funds
 City Missionary Association- thanking Choral Society for contributions
 1933, 1935, 1941
 War Fund Campaign and Community Chest 1937, 1943 ; Red Cross;
 Register Fresh Air Fund, etc. thanking Society for contributions

Folder P - New Haven Foundation

Annual reports- New Haven Foundation
 seven letters concerning \$1000 Trust Fund to Foundation from
 Choral Society upon dissolution of group - 1958-59.
 Documents giving \$1000 Trust Fund
 Letter to Neighborhood Music School re money it will receive from
 New Haven Foundation Trust

Folder Q - Miscellaneous Correspondence

- (11) 1934 letter to Mr. Donovan
 1940 - St. Ambrose Music Club to Business & Professional Women's
 Club of New Haven
 1941 - requests and answers concerning concert tickets
 1944 - letter to "Margaret" re annual report
 1951 - letter to "Preisner" re check for \$25 - and handwritten
 note re letter
 1953 - letter to Ohio Wesleyan re program
 no date - envelope - note about IRS