The Cranbrook Music Guild
Records

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

Accession Number: 1995-85


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Preferred Citation: Cranbrook Music Guild, Cranbrook Archives, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Photographs: In Box 7, stored with Photo Collection

Processing: Holly Clarke, April 2011
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. 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

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, several small posters and two name tags.

SERIES V: Photographs (Box 7) contains both publicity photos of individual artists and photos of events STORED WITH PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION IN PREP ROOM. A small number of negatives and transparencies were added to the CEC Collection (CEC 5934-CEC 5941).

Related Collections
- Henry Scripps and Carolyn Farr Booth Papers (1982-05)
SERIES I: ADMINISTRATIVE

Box 1
1. Articles of Incorporation
2. Business Data Notes
3. By-laws
4. Constitution
13. Festival Executive Committee – 1975-1979
17. Financials – 1952-1959
25. Financials, Festival – 1975-1976
27. Financials, Tax Exemption

Box 2
1. History
3. Ledgers, Meeting Minutes and Reports – 1951-1954
4. Ledgers, Meeting Minutes and Reports – 1954-1962
5. Ledgers, Meeting Minutes and Reports – 1962-1971
7. Ledgers, Meeting Minutes and Reports – 1979-1985
8. Ledgers, Meeting Minutes and Reports – 1985-1990
10. Meetings and Notes – n.d.
Box 2 (continued)
11. Meetings and Notes – 1951-1953
12. Meetings and Notes – 1954-1956
14. Meetings and Notes – 1959
15. Meetings and Notes – 1960-1961
17. Meetings and Notes – 1966-1969

Box 3
1. Meetings and Notes – 1970-1973
2. Meetings and Notes – 1974-1975
5. Meetings and Notes – 1981-1985
11. Meetings and Notes – 2001-2004
14. Meetings and Notes, Festival – 1971-1972
15. Meetings and Notes, Festival – 1973-1974
16. Meetings and Notes, Festival ’75 – 1975
17. Meetings and Notes, Festival ’76 – 1975-1976
18. Meetings and Notes, Festival ’77 – 1976-1977
19. Meetings and Notes, Festival ’78 – 1977-1978
25. Notes, Kalamazoo Bach Festival
27. Special Projects – 1950-1951
SERIES II: CORRESPONDENCE

Box 4
1. Correspondence – n.d.
2. Correspondence – 1950-1954
3. Correspondence – 1955-1959
4. Correspondence – 1960-1963
5. Correspondence – 1964-1966
7. Correspondence – 1970-1974
8. Correspondence – 1975-1979
11. Correspondence – 1999
13. Correspondence, Festival – 1965-1966
14. Correspondence, Festival – 1967
15. Correspondence, Festival – 1968
17. Correspondence, Festival – May-December 1969
18. Correspondence, Festival – 1970
19. Correspondence, Festival – 1971
20. Correspondence, Festival – 1972
21. Correspondence, Festival – 1973
22. Correspondence, Festival – 1974
23. Correspondence, Festival – 1975

SERIES III: EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Box 5
2. Clippings – 1950-1959
13. Performers
14. Press Releases
Box 5 (continued)
17. Press Releases, Festival – 1973-1975
20. Print Ads
22. Seasons 7th to 16th – 1958-1968

SERIES IV: OVERSIZED

Box 6
Large scrapbook, small posters and name tags with ribbons.

SERIES V: PHOTOGRAPHS

Box 7
1. General
2. General
3. General
4. General
5. General
6. A-C
7. D-H
8. K-R
9. S-Z
10. American Arts String Quartet
11. Baldwin-Wallace College Brass Quintet
12. Boston Symphony Chamber Players
13. Borodin Quartet
14. WSU Chamber Choir
15. Kenneth Jewell Chorale
16. Santa Barbara Ballet
17. Champagne Reception – 1967
18. Christ Church Cranbrook
19. Cranbrook Festival, Executive Committee – 1970
20. Cranbrook Festival – 1977
22. Festival Dancers – 1971
23. Fortieth Anniversary - 1991
Index

Bachauer, Gina 1:9, 1:10, 4:19, 5:4, 5:9, 5:10, 5:13, 5:16, 5:17, 5:18

Christ Church Cranbrook Choir 1:5, 4:9, 4:12

Goor, Anita DeMarco 1:7, 4:10, 4:11, 4:12

Mischakoff, Ann 1:5, 1:8, 1:9, 4:20, 4:21, 5:8, 5:16

Mischakoff, Mischa 1:5, 1:8, 1:9, 4:20, 4:21, 5:2, 5:3, 5:8, 5:9, 5:13, 5:16, 5:17, 5:21

Saarinen, Eero 4:4

Thistle 5:22