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Hope College

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Abstract

The Hope College Music Department Collection includes programs for the various music groups, student performers, faculty, and guest artists; news articles reviewing most performances; calendars indicating dates and times for some performances; and minutes that document activities in the department from 1946 to the present. Discussed in the minutes are curriculum issues, student concerns, faculty and student recruitment, and arrangements for presenting various concerts on campus. Also included are Chapel Choir scrapbooks from 1955-1986, as well as a few other scrapbooks. Other topics include Christmas Vespers, the Musical Showcase, the Concerto/Aria Competition, Tulip Time, Opera Workshop, various summer camps, the National School Orchestra Association, and the National Association of Schools of Music.

History

The orchestra, band and glee clubs were initially the most prominent musical organizations at Hope College. The orchestra gained greater stature in the 1940s with Morrette Rider serving as conductor. Rider remained in that position through the spring of 1967, when he was succeeded by Robert Ritsema. Another prominent leader of the music department was Robert Cavanaugh, who directed the Chapel Choir from 1952-1973. Among his accomplishments were many Chapel Choir Midwest tours, as well as a White House visit during the Nixon administration. Perhaps the most important aspect of the Hope College music program, however, has been the student and faculty recitals that continue as a strong tradition.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of minutes, scrapbooks, programs, newspaper clippings, photographs, and correspondence of the Hope College Music Department. Subjects include NSOA (National School Orchestra Association), NASM (National Association of Schools of Music), recitals, choir trips, and music department facilities. Notable figures include Robert Snow, John Nykerk, Roger Rietberg, Wynand Wichers, and Robert Cavanaugh.

Container List

Box 1
Administrative materials
- Administration Usage Hours, 1995-1996
- Annual Reports, 1985-1998 (2 folders)
- Budget/Financial Information, 1985-1990
- Departmental Review, 1987
- Handbook, Music Department, 1966
- Long-Range Planning, 1990
- Recommendations for Assessment Procedures and Curriculum Revisions, 1995
- Report, 1964
- Self-Study, 1980, 1982
- Staff Retreat (correspondence, Holiday Inn), 1989-1991
- Steering Committee Report, 1989
- Student employment, 1991, 1993
- Summary of Music Department Opinions, May 1971

Brochures
- The Music of Hope College, ca. 1966

Canning, Thomas, Music composed by/for Hope College (correspondence), 1957-1959

Correspondence
- Off-campus, 1968-1994
- On-campus, 1959-1995

Curriculum
- Course Descriptions, 1989
- Curriculum Committee Minutes, 1987 (review of Music Dept.)
- Music Education Curriculum, n.d.
- Preliminary Application of Intention to Major in Music, n.d.
- Recital Policies, 1966-1995
- Delta Omicron (music sorority), 1973-1995

Box 1.5

Ensembles, Instrumental
- Band, 1926-1982
- Combined Concerts, 1956-[ongoing]
- Jazz Ensemble, 1974-[ongoing]
- Orchestra, 1921-[ongoing] (3 folders)
- Symphonette, 1953-[ongoing] (3 folders)
- Wind Ensemble/Wind Symphony, 1976-[ongoing]
Ensembles, Instrumental, 1954
Ensembles, Instrumental and Vocal (combined concerts) 1950-[ongoing]
Ensembles, Vocal
  Chancel Choir, 1954-1959
  Chapel Choir, 1931-1969
  Chapel Choir, 1970-[ongoing] (4 images) (3 folders)
  Chapel Choir, correspondence, 1952-1972

Box 2

Ensembles, Vocal (cont.)
  College Chorus, 1902-[ongoing]
  Collegium Musicum, 1969-[ongoing]
  Combined Choirs (combined concerts), 1970-[ongoing]
  Glee Clubs (men’s and women’s), 1896-1954
  Glee Clubs, correspondence, 1946-1953
  Madrigal singers, 1948-1950, 1993
  Men’s Choir, 1972
  Messiah Chorus and Orchestra, 1943-1974
  Motet Choir, 1967-1968
  Oratorio Chorus and Orchestra, 1967-1977
  Women’s Chamber Choir, 2004-[ongoing]
  Women’s Chorus, 1958-[ongoing]

Events
  Arts Calendars, 1977-1994
  Baccalaureate, Commencement, Convocation Concerts, 1946-1993
  Church Music Conference, 1958
  Collage Concert, 1988-[ongoing]
  Concert Calendars, 1964-1977
  Concerto-Aria Competition, 1971-[ongoing]
  Dedications, 1929-2000
  Double Reed Camp, Gail Warnaar, 1981-1994
  Fine Arts Festival, 1950-1966
  Harpsichord Festival, 1974
  Holland Piano Teachers’ Forum, 1993-1994
  Jazz Festival, 1987
  Madrigal Dinner, 1977-[ongoing]
  Michigan Collegiate Honors Band, 1975
  Michigan Intercollegiate Choral Festival, 1966
  Michigan Music Teachers Association Spring Convention, 1963
  Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Student Competitions, 1993
  Musical Showcase
    Programs, 1989-[ongoing] (2 folders)
    CDs, 2007-2008
  Portraits in Opera, 1969-1980
Recitals
Alumni, 1960-1995
Faculty, 1922-[ongoing] (6 folders)
Guest Artists, 1920-1975 (3 folders)

Box 3

Events (cont.)
Recitals (cont.)
Guest Artists, 1976-[ongoing] (4 folders)
Homecoming, 1952-1975
Organ, 1929-[ongoing]
Student, 1902-[ongoing] (12 folders)
Summer Piano Workshop, 1984
Summer Programs, 1960-1973
Theory Orientation Seminar, 1993
Tulip Time and Municipal Programs, 1936-1995
Vespers (Christmas), 1944-[ongoing] (4 folders)

Box 4

Events (cont.)
Vespers (General), 1929-[ongoing]
Vocal Ensemble Evening, 1970
Workshops/Clinics (General), 1966-[ongoing]
Workshops/Clinics (Opera), 1955-[ongoing]

Facilities
Keyboards, 1995-1996
Music Hall, 1956
Organs, 1945-1952
Recommendations, 1995
Recording Arts Center, 1992-1994
Wichers Auditorium, photograph of groundbreaking, 1968 (?) (1 image)

Faculty
Applied Music Faculty, 1975-1977
Instructor evaluation forms, n.d.
Jazz Position Opening, 1993
Part-time Faculty, 1985-1994 (2 folders) [Restricted, Box 5]
Resumes, 1983-1987, [Restricted, Box 5]

Grand Rapids Community Concert Association Tickets, Correspondence, 1957-1959

History
“From Stepchild to Center Stage: An Annotated Timeline of the Hope College Department of Music, ca. 1900-2015,” 2005
National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)
Annual Reports, 1958-1965

4
Application for Associate Membership, Correspondence, 1959-1969
Visitor’s Report and Response, 1959
National School Orchestra Association (NSOA)
Application for use of School Owned Facilities, 1968, 1971
Brochures, Youth Choir and Youth Orchestra, 1967-1979
Correspondence, 1968-1981 (4 folders)
Faculty Recital, 1970-1971
Honor Certificates, n.d.
Itinerary/Program Booklet, 1966-1981
List of Participants, 1968-1981
List of Productions, 1976
News Release, n.d.
Newspaper Clippings, 1968-1975
Notes, 1968-1981
Photographs
  1969, n.d. (3 images)
  1973-1975 (7 images)
Programs, 1964-1981
Press Releases, 1966-1975
Rules, 1971-1972
Scholarships, 1971-1980
News Clippings, 1928-[ongoing] (6 folders)
Oral History Project
Interview with Harley Brown, August 30, 2018 (hard copy, digital)
Interview with Elton Bruins, May 31, 2018 (hard copy, digital)
Interview with Marcia Buck, June 21, 2018 (hard copy, digital)
Interview with Joan Conway, June 25, 2018 (hard copy, digital)
Interview with Jantina Holleman, August 20, 2002 (hard copy, floppy disk and audio cassette)
Interview with Carlyle Neckers, June 13, 2002 (hard copy, floppy disk and audio cassette)
Interview with Sue Pettinga, June 25, 2018 (hard copy, digital)
Interview with Roger Rietberg and Jon Rietberg, August 9, 2018 (hard copy, digital)
Interview with Robert Ritsema, June 28, 2018 (hard copy, digital)

Box 5

Photographs, large, n.d. (9 images)
Press Releases (misc.), 1967-[ongoing]
Scholarships, 1992-1993
Sheet Music, Alma Mater Hymn, Cavanaugh, 1948
Chapel Choir Scrapbooks
1955 (18 images)
1955-1956 (5 images)
1957 (6 images)
1959 (5 images)
1960-1961 (26 images)
1961-1962 (16 images)
1963 (25 images)
1965 (19 images)

Box 6

Chapel Choir Scrapbooks (cont.)
1966 (6 images)
1967 (27 images)
1967, European Tour, (3 images)
1968 (38 images)
1969 (18 images)
1970 (23 images)
1971 (29 images)

Box 7

Chapel Choir Scrapbooks (cont.)
1971-1972 (18 images)
1972-1973 (21 images)
1974-1975 (25 images)
1975-1976 (18 images)
1980-1981 (53 images)
1981-1982 (15 images)
1982-1983 (22 images)

Box 8

Chapel Choir Scrapbooks (cont.)
1983-1984 (8 images)
1983-1986 (31 images)
1991 (7 images)
Symphonette Scrapbook, 1955 (35 images)
Glee Club Scrapbook, 1951 (6 images)

Box 9 (Oversized)

LP Record, Christmas Vespers, Volume II, 1984
The New Hope College Music Hall brochure and floor plan, 1956
Scrapbooks
  1975-1976 (41 images)
  1977-1978 (47 images)

Box 10 [RESTRICTED]

Restricted Files
  Part-time Faculty, 1985-1994 (2 folders)
  Resumes, 1983-1987