

E89

Fort William Male Choir Fonds

Originals and photocopies, 43 cm of textual records, 1930- 1996

Scope and Content: The Fort William Male Choir Fonds, consists of ten series spanning from 1930 to 1996. It includes three scrapbooks, various newspaper clippings, music programmes, financial information, a list of members, appearances and song lists.

Series E 89/1/1-3: Scrapbooks, 21cm, 1930-1996

Three scrapbooks describing activities of the Fort William Male Choir from its inception to 1996. Typical items found in scrapbooks are: photographs, programmes, certificates, newspaper clippings, broadcast schedules, membership lists, articles, and correspondence.

- 1) 1930-1967
- 2) 1967- 1982
- 3) 1983- 1996

Series E 89/2/1-3: Newspaper Clippings and Articles, 6 cm, 1952- 1988

Three folders with article and newspaper clippings. Organized chronologically.

- 1) 1958, 1960, 1962-63, 1966-67, 1977-78. Articles, magazines, and two T.V. guides.
- 2) 1952-54, 1957-1960, 1962-69, 1971-79, 1981-85. Newspaper clippings.
- 3) Undated. Newspaper clippings.

Series E 89/3/1-2: Song lists, 1 cm, 1968- 1984

Two folders with songlists and sheets that were sung by the Fort William Male Choir. Organized chronologically.

- 1) Undated. Two Songlists.
- 2) 1968, 1974, 1982, 1984. Smorgasbord songlists, song sheets, smorgasbord floor plans.

Series E 89/4/1: Correspondence, 0.5 cm, 1947- 1985, originals and photocopies.

One folder containing correspondence to the Fort William Male Choir. Organized chronologically.

- 1) 1947, 1959, 1961-63, 1965, 1967, 1975, 1985.

Series E 89/5/1: Letterheads, .25 cm, Undated

One folder containing blank envelopes and paper with different styles of letterheads.

- 1) Undated. Six types of monogrammed envelopes, three monogrammed letters.

Series E 89/6/1-2: Membership Lists, 1 cm, 1927- 1970s, 1989.

Two folders containing lists of members names from inception into the 1980s. Organized chronologically.

- 1) 1927- 1970s, 1989. Membership lists. Red duotang contains membership lists from 1927 to 1970. Also contains list of appearances.

- 2) 1920s, 1940s- 1980s. Laminated membership lists.
- * See also E 89/8/1 for attendance records of members.

Series E 89/7/1-2: Schedules and Appearances, .25 cm, 1927- 1985.

Two folders containing appearances and schedule listings that were in Canada, the U.S. and in Europe. Organized chronologically.

- 1) 1927-1985. Appearances lists. Date, location and event recorded.
*See also red duotang in E 89/6/1 for more appearances listings.
- 2) 1959, 1965, 1972-73. Schedules and mapped destinations.

Series E 89/8/1-5: Financial Documents, 6 cm, 1934-38, 1967, 1972, 1980-84.

Four financial recording books, and one folder containing financial documentation of overseas tour to Europe. Organized chronologically.

- 1) 1934-38. Records of dues paid by choir members. Also contains attendance records of members spanning from 1933- 1939.
- 2) 1980-1981. Receipts from members listed. Total expenditures and total revenue also included in book.
- 3) 1982- 1983. Receipts from members listed.
- 4) 1983- 1984. Receipts from members listed, along with total expenditures.
- 5) 1967, 1972. Receipts, cheques, and financial correspondence pertaining to overseas tour.

Series E 89/9/1: Programmes, 5 cm, 1946, 1948- 1989, 1992.

Organized chronologically. Programmes at back undated.

- 1) 1946, 1948- 1989, 1992. Some undated. Divided into two folders are music programmes of concerts that were performed and attended.

Series E 89/10/1-2: Ephemera, 2 cm, 1954- 1980

One folder containing, stickers and name tags, 1968; letters patent incorporating F.W.M.C, Air Canada packet promoting F.W.M.C tour to Europe, posters, informational pamphlets of The Concord Singers, and the Male Choruses of America, and rough financial and biographical notes.

- 1) 1954, 1959, 1964, 1968, 1973, 1977, 1980.
- 2) 1973. Also in folder, duotang containing information about the F.W.M.C tour to Europe.

Organizational Sketch: The Fort William Male Choir was established as a choral group in 1930. The group became a successful competitor in Northwestern Ontario Music Festivals, and became popular due to their achievements. During the 1940s there was a short recess due to World War II, but the choir picked back up again in 1946. Norman J. Kleven became the conductor of the choir in 1946, leading the choral group to great success and fame in Canada. The Fort William Male Choir often attended "Big Sings" that occurred in both Canada and the U.S. Due to their success in the "Big Sings" the group became known internationally, performing in Europe in front of thousands of people. The choral group also had many appearances on the radio, on T.V and released five records. The Fort William Male Choir was in high demand in the Lakehead region,

and locals were proud of the level of prestige that the choir had achieved over the years.

Additional Information: Donated by Fort William Male Choir, Don Harris.

Related Material: See also museum collection 2010.138.1, containing photos, albums, trophies and certificates.