



University of Victoria Archives

AR194

Healey Willan collection

1. Fonds-level description

Title

Healey Willan collection

Dates

1937-1981

Extent

10 cm of textual records, 11 photographs

Biographical sketch

James Healey Willan was born 12 October 1880 in Balham, London. In 1897 he became an Associate of the Royal College of Organists, and in 1899 a Fellow. From 1903 until 1913 he served as organist and choirmaster at St. John the Baptist Kensington. In 1913 Healey immigrated to Canada, settling in Toronto. In Toronto Willan held various positions at St. Mary Magdalene, St. Paul's, and the Toronto Conservatory. Willan died 16 February 1968.

Scope and content

The collection primarily consists of memorabilia and newspaper clippings, collected by Willan's son, Patrick Willan. Files include correspondence and minutes of the Healey Willan Centennial Celebration Committee, 1978-1980; programmes, 1936-1980; clippings, 1936?-1965; programmes and clippings of Willan's opera, *Deirdre*; obituaries and memorials, 1968; Church of St. Mary Magdalene, 1979-1980; Willan Centenary, 1980; articles on Willan, 1980-1981; memorabilia, 1968-1979; and photographs of Willan with family and musicians.

Notes

Gifted by Patrick Willan to music librarian Sandy Acker, who transferred the materials to Special Collection in the fall of 1988.

2. Structure

(no series or files)

3. Inventory

Accession 1989-020

1.1 Correspondence and minutes

Picture postcard of Queen Elizabeth II with Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Princess Anne, 1953. Autograph note signed "Dad", to Pat & Lorna; no date.

Typed letter signed from Fred Clarke to Mr. and Mrs. [Patrick] Willan. 8 Jan., 1978; 1 page. Concerns material lent being microfilmed or copied at National Library.

Photocopy of TLs (22 Aug. 1978; 2pp.) to Archbishop Edward Scott, Toronto, from Michael C. Manning about Healey Willan Centenary, 1980.

Photocopy of TLs (14 Feb. 1979; 1p.) to Healey Willan Centennial Committee from Michael C. Manning.

TLs (25 Aug. 1980; 1p.) from Roland Michener to Patrick about his view of "the limericks".

Photocopy of TLs (13 Oct. 1980; 1p.) from The British Music Society to Michael C. Manning about Manning article on Willan for their newsletter and cassette of Willan's music. Verso has draft of Manning letter to BMS (23 June 1980; 1p.) to which the above replies.

Typed draft [from Patrick Willan] to National Library of Canada [13 Nov. 1980; 1p. on verso of balance sheet.] about return of Healey Willan Exhibit. Enclosed 1p. photocopied Healey Willan Week proclamation (City of Victoria) and photocopy of TLs (11 Aug. 1980; 1p.) to Victoria's mayor from Victoria Symphony Society, sending material for the proclamation etc. Attached 7 pages of assembly instructions for the exhibit.

Mimeographed minutes of the Healey Willan Centennial Celebration Committee: 18 Sept. 1979 (3p.) and 15 Nov. [79] (3p.)

1.2 Programmes 1936-80

Promenade Symphony Concerts (University of Toronto Arena) October 8th, 1936 and July 1st, 1937.

Four Day Symposium of Canadian Music, Vancouver, B.C. March 12-15 [1950]

University of Toronto, Convocation Hall. Organ recitals 1949-50. March 13th, 1950.

Royal Conservatory Symphony Orchestra, Massey Hall, May 11 and 18, 1950.

The Church of the Covenant, Presbyterian, Cleveland [Ohio] October 8, 1950.

The Canadian College of Organists, Toronto Centre, St. Paul's Church, 14 October 1950

Hart House, The Great Hall. Sunday Evening Concert, 7th December, 1952.

The Canadian Club of Toronto, Sixty-First Anniversary "Salute to the Arts" Concert Hall, Royal York Hotel, December 8th, 1958.

The Festival Singers of Toronto. A Centennial Salute....Dr. Healey Willan. May 24, 1967.

The Cathedral Church of St. James, Toronto. February 15th, 1976.

The Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Massey Hall, Jan. 27th, 1948, Nov. 7th + 8th 1950.
Special Concert....Sponsored by The Toronto Daily Star, March 5th, 1958.
February 20th and 21st, 1968; 1p. mentioning Tribute to the late Healey Willan laid in.
Programme Schedule; 59th Season - 1980/81.

The Consecration.... of the Venerable Hywel James Jones as 9th Bishop of B. C. in Christ Church Cathedral....May 1, 1980. 2 p. H notes by [Patrick Willan] laid in.

The Daily Telegraph, Oct. 11, 1980; ad for concert featuring Healey Willan's music.

Victoria Symphony at Cowichan Community Centre; October 18, 1980.

Metropolitan Church....Victoria, B.C. [11 November, 1980.]

The Cathedral Church of St. James....Toronto. Nov. 30th, 1980. 2 slips "From J.E.A. Smith" laid in. One has clipping re. Healey Willan Symposium (Edward Johnson Building; Dec. 4) glued to verso, the other bears typed message from Jim, dated 2 Dec. '80.

1.3 Clippings 1936-1965

1936-1943 (6)

1952 concert in London (England) (9)

2nd Symphony performance 1950 (3); 1958 (1)

Coronation Anthem [1953] (5)

"The Lambeth Doctorate" [1956] (6)

1952 + 1953 (6)

Birthdays 70th (7), 75th (5), 80th-85th (9)

1.4 Clippings and articles 1956 - 1981

1956-59 (5) 1962-67 (15) 1972 (3) 1981 (1)

Star Weekly Magazine (Dec. 22, 62) "Canada's impish dean of composers" by Kildare Dobbs

The Globe Magazine (Oct. 17, 64) "Still in tune at 84" by Hugh Thomson.

[Varsity Graduate] Summer 1967 "A great Canadian who coaxes lovely...." by Keith Bissell

The Music Scene Nov.-Dec. 1967 "Healey Willan" by Tom Brown

1.5 "Deirdre" 1965-66 (2 programmes and 8 clippings)

University of Toronto, Royal Conservatory of Music. The Opera School presents....
DEIRDRE....April 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 1965. Programme.

Canadian Opera Company, O'Keefe Centre....18th Annual Season....1966. Programme.

1965 (1)

1966 (7)

1.6 Obituaries and memorials (14 clippings)

Musicanada No. 9, March 1968: pp. 5-7 "The music of Healey Willan" by Giles Bryant.

The Monthly Letter (The Arts & Letters Club, Toronto) February 1968: [pp. 1-3]

"Lament for Healey Willan" poem by John Coulter, pp. 8-10 reminiscences by John Coulter,

pp. 11-12 "Great Man from an Era!" signed H.L. Attached, 3p. CTS of H.L. contribution plus 1 page photocopy of TS of shorter version of the Coulter poem.

1.7 Church of St. Mary Magdalene, 1979-80 (3 clippings)

Healey Willan Memorial Fund. Brochure & envelope; 2 announcements of recordings sold in aid of the fund.

Programme for Service on 10 February 1980. Part I: Dedication of the Organ.

Programme for Dedicatory Recitals, Healey Willan Memorial Organ, Feb. 12, 13, 14, 1980.

Printed announcement and order form laid in.

2 versions of Psalter booklet.

1.8 Willan Centenary 1980

Royal Canadian College of Organists (Spring 1979) "A tribute to Dr. Healey Willan" pp. 3-26

2 advertisements of Willan music available. International Music Sales + Frederick Harris.

Gordon V. Thompson brochure offering one free copy of 22 Willan chorals.

Ontario Choral Federation "Elmer Iseler" issue mentions "A CelebrationHealey Willan"

The Cathedral Church of St. James, Toronto. Choral Eucharist and Homily at four-thirty in Thanksgiving for the Life and Work of Healey Willan. Feb. 10, 1980.

Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria, B.C.

"Music in the Cathedral - 1980" announcement and August 2, 1980 programme

2 Programmes for Services on October 12th and November 8, 1980.

The Church of Saint Luke, Victoria. Healey Willan Anniversary Service (Oct. 5, 1980)

Vancouver Chamber Choir. A Healey Willan Christmas. December 10 [1980]

Healey Willan Centennial Celebration [List of B.C.events] pp. 20-22.

Programme "Healey Willan Week" Toronto, Dec. 1st to 7th, 1980.

Gregorian Association Choir "Healey Willan / A Centennial Celebration": 4 pp. photocopies of LP record sleeve and text. + 19 clippings

1.9 1980s articles on Willan in magazines etc.

The Music Scene January-February, 1980: pp. 6 + 14 "Healey Willan" by Giles Bryant.

The Anvil (Feb. 6, 1980): pp.4-5 "Healey Willan Remembered" by Norman W. Hurrel.

Orchestra/Orchestres Canada Vol. 7 No. 3 March [1980] p. 4 CIC "A celebration....Willan"

MusiCanada No. 42 (Spring 1980) pp. 4-6 "Healey Willan" by Godfrey Ridout,
pp. 17-19 "Healey Willan: A plea for his lesser known works" by Giles Bryant.

Maclean's Magazine (April 80) "Hosanna in limerick for the hymn-maker" by Janet Enright.

Newsletter Canada Music Week (Nov. 23-30, 1980) pp. 2, 8 + 13 on Willan.

Reader's Digest (Oct. 80) pp. 84-88 "A Merry Old Willan Named Healey" by Adrian Waller

The American Organist (Oct. 80) 4 articles on Willan, 2 by Norman Gary Johnson, one each by Joylin Campbell-Yuki and Giles Bryant.

Monarchy Canada (November 80) p.26 mentions issue of Willan stamp.

Music Magazine (Dec. 80) pp.24-27 "The music and wit of" by Peeter Tammearu.

The Toronto Symphony News 1980/81 Issue Two: 3 articles on Willan by Doreen Miller Pemberton, Warren Sorensen, Richard S. Warren.

Graduate (UofT Alumni) Jan/Feb 1981: p.28 "A Healey Willan Tribute" by Godfrey Ridout.

1.10 Memorabilia

The Oxford University Press invitation to a reception in honour of Healey Willan on the eve of his seventy-fifth birthday.

The Ontario Heart Foundation. Acknowledgement of a contribution in memory of Dr. Healey Willan from J.E.A. Smith [see also last item in folder 2] 1968?

Bilingual brochure for "Healey Willan: The man and his music" An Exhibition at the

National Library of Canada. May - September 1972.

Opening Inauguration, May 8 1972. Programme for the above exhibition.

Bilingual brochure for "Healey Willan: The man and his music 1880-1968" An exhibition during the centennial year of the composer's birth. 1980.

Anglican Book Centre. 1983 advert for Healey Willan: Life and Music by F.R.C. Clarke.

Bermuda Cathedral. Programme for November 18th, 1979.

Mimeographed "Texts for Healey Willan Choral Concert" 2p.

1.11 Photographs

P1 21x16cm b/w mounted on cardboard. Healey Willan [ca. 8 years old] with his younger sister, mother and grandmother.

P2 12x17cm b/w Healey Willan with his three sons, Bernard, Patrick and Michael [pre-teens.]

P3 12x17cm b/w Healey Willan with his wife and three sons, Bernard, Patrick and Michael [pre-teens.]

P4 21x16cm b/w [The three Willan boys: Bernard Edward, Patrick Kingston and Michael Healey in their pre-teens.]

P5 25x20cm b/w Copy of P4 by Provincial Archives, Victoria, B.C.

P6 20x25cm b/w [Patrick and Lorna Willan, Roland and Mrs. Michener, Michael Willan at the opening of the 1972 Exhibition at the N. L.] #L 1435

P7 20x25cm b/w [Patrick and Lorna Willan, Mary Willan Mason, Michael Willan.] #L 1442

P8 20x25cm b/w [Patrick, Lorna, Guy Sylvestre (National Librarian), Mary, the Micheners, Michael, Helmut Kallman, Giles Bryant.] #L 1458

P9 20x25cm b/w [Patrick, Michael, Roland Michener.] #L 1444

P10 20x25cm b/w [Cantata Singers of Ottawa, Heraldic trumpets of the Canadian Forces Central Band.] #L 1436

P11 20x25cm b/w [Cantata Singers of Ottawa.] #L 1446

2 items catalogued for Special Collections

Peter's Book by Healey Willan. London, The Frederick Harris Co. [c1936.]
(5 scores for piano and voice.)

Deirdre: An ancient and noble tale retold by John Coulter for music by Healey Willan; being the revised version of their Deirdre of the Sorrows. Revised for the presentation by the Opera School, Royal Conservatory of Music, University of Toronto, April 1965. c1965