



University of Victoria Archives

AR288

Charles Palmer fonds

1. Fonds-level description

Title

Charles Palmer fonds

Dates

Ca. 1895-1997

Extent

30 cm of textual records

Biographical sketch

Charles Palmer was born on 24 June 1916 in Southampton, England, and emigrated with his family to Edmonton, Alberta in 1918. Palmer attended the Royal Chapel School at Windsor as a boy chorister (1927-30); Clifton College in Bristol (1930-34) for music performance, theory and composition; and Wadham College, Oxford as an organ scholar (1934-37). On graduation from Oxford, Palmer was appointed organist at the Chapel Royal, Windsor Great Park (1938-39), and continued in composing and performing. After the WW II, he moved to Victoria, BC where he worked as a church musician at Fairfield United Church (1947-52); Metropolitan United Church (1952-56); Song School in the Cloisters at Westminster Abbey (1957-62; St Mary's Oak Bay (1962-83). Palmer resigned in 1983 to devote himself to composing. Palmer died in Victoria 30 March 1997.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of personal records, 1925-92; correspondence, 1928-97; programs and reviews of performances, 1949-87; photographs, ca.1895-97; certificates and medals, 1924-95; instrumental music scores, 1930-92; secular choral music scores, 1929-93; and sacred choral music scores, 1932-38.

Notes

Acquired from Boyce Gaddes, September 1998.

2. Structure

(no series or files)

3. Inventory

Accession 1998-058

Box 1

- 1.1 Biography
- 1.2 Personal Records
 - 1.2.1 Birth Certificates: Margaret Finch Dawson (Mother), Robert Henry Charles Palmer
 - 1.2.2 News clipping about Ladies Club in Victoria, 1900-1920
 - 1.2.3 Wolf Cub enrolment card, Edmonton, November 1925
 - 1.2.4 Note regarding Charles' confirmation in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, by Bishop of Southampton, April 5/30
 - 1.2.5 Driving License, May 1939 to May 1940
 - 1.2.6 English language four-page newspaper Tripoli Times of April 21, 1943 circulated in occupied area of North Africa to Allied armed forces and civilization population
 - 1.2.7 Royal Air Force Discharge Certificate, June 4, 1945
 - 1.2.8 Typed outline, three pages, listing academic and music diplomas and degrees, and church appointment previous to war service
 - 1.2.9 Professional and academic record, 1934 to 1951
 - 1.2.10 Victoria City trades license, July 1952 to January 53
 - 1.2.11 Note to Mr. Dean, April 19, thanking him for kind offer, from 1149 Oliver Street
 - 1.2.12 Victoria College appointment to Summer Session, 1960
 - 1.2.13 Notes about Sir William McKie
 - 1.2.14 News clipping of Charles' review of Graham Steed's organ recital in Victoria, June 1973
 - 1.2.15 Poster for March 1987 Civil Orchestra performance of Music for Brass and Strings
 - 1.2.16 Power-of-attorney for Mark Horne, January 8, 1992
 - 1.2.17 Tributes following Charles' death from Graham Steed and Marion Espin
 - 1.2.18 Obituary notice and program for funeral service
- 1.3 Correspondence
 - 1.3.1 Norman Wilks to C.P., August 10. No date, possibly 1928
 - 1.3.2 Edmund H. Fellowes to Lady Goodrich, Sept. 22, 1927
 - 1.3.3 Albert Baillie to Mr. Palmer, No. 29, 1927
 - 1.3.4 Edmund H. Fellowes to C.P., April 18, 1936
 - 1.3.5 Letter of appointment to post of organist to the Royal Chapel, Windsor Great Park, Oct. 18, 1937
 - 1.3.6 Walford Davies to C.P. on his appointment to the Royal Chapel in 1937
 - 1.3.7 From Rev. F.J. Stone, Chaplain to the Royal Chapel, Windsor Great Park, no date

- 1.3.8 From Edmund H. Fellowes of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, April 15, 1946
- 1.3.9 From Sir Maurice Brown, Warden, Wadham College, Oxford, April 21, 1946
- 1.3.10 From Sir Sydney H. Nicholson, Director, Royal School of Church Music, April 25, 1946
- 1.3.11 From Thomas Armstrong, Choragus of Oxford University, Principal of Royal Academy of Music, April 22, 1946
- 1.3.12 Wilfred H. Odaker, Headmaster, Junior King's School, Canterbury, March 20, 1947
- 1.3.13 John Adaskin To C.P., May 21, 1952
- 1.3.14 Leslie Bell Singers to C.P., April 10, 1953
- 1.3.15 University Registry, Oxford, to C.P., June 5, 1956
- 1.3.16 Sir William McKie to C.P., Dec. 18, 1956
- 1.3.17 Michael W. Rich to Ralph W. Burrowes, July 11, 1997
- 1.4 Programs & Reviews of Performances
 - 1.4.1 News Clippings of joint recital with John Bray at home of Sara Spencer, 1142 Moss Street, July 29, 1949
 - 1.4.2 Scandinavian Music Program, October 24, 1951
 - 1.4.3 Evening service, Metropolitan United Church, Jun 13, 1954
 - 1.4.4 Royal Canadian College of Organists recital at Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria, August 1960
 - 1.4.5 News clipping of performance with Symphony players Woodford Garrigus, oboe, and Maurice Crawford, flute
 - 1.4.6 News clippings of St. Mary's Choir presentation of Trial by Jury
 - 1.4.7 Program of organ recital at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver, September 13, 1967
 - 1.4.8 Program as Director of the University of Victoria Choir, at St. Mary's Oak Bay, March, 21, 1966, and March 17, 1967, St. John's Anglican Church, March 5, 1969
 - 1.4.9 Program of Civil Orchestra performance of Music for Brass and Strings, March, 28, 1987
 - 1.4.10 Program and pen and ink sketch of performance of Te Deum by the UVic Choir and Orchestra conducted by George Corwin, December 5, 1987
- 1.5 Photographs
 - 1.5.1 Gerard Finch Dawson (Grandfather) about 1895
 - 1.5.2 Unidentified English Church, but maybe the Chapel Royal in Windsor Great Park, Charles' first post in 1938
 - 1.5.3 Metropolitan Church Choir, Victoria, about 1955
 - 1.5.4 Westminster Abbey, St. Margaret's Church in foreground, Choir School and Cloisters in background
 - 1.5.5 Royal Wedding rehearsal in Westminster Abbey in 1960, Sir William McKie conducting
 - 1.5.6 Charles Palmer, about 55 years of age
 - 1.5.7 Charles Palmer, about 65 years of age

- 1.5.8 Church in Kent where Charles played the organ on visits to friends who lived there
- 1.5.9 Charles Palmer in his late seventies
- 1.5.10 Charles' burial service in St. Stephen's Church cemetery, Saanichton
- 1.6 School and Music Certificates & War Medals:
 - 1.6.1 School Examinations Primary Division, 1924
 - 1.6.2 School Examinations Primary Division, 1925
 - 1.6.3 School Examinations Lower Division, 1926
 - 1.6.4 School Examinations Higher Division, 1927
 - 1.6.5 Local Centre Examination, Intermediate Grade, 1928
 - 1.6.6 Oxford & Cambridge Schools Examination Board: School Certificate A, December 1933
 - 1.6.7 The Royal College of Organists Associateship Diploma, January 1938
 - 1.6.8 The Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations, July 1995
 - 1.6.9 Organist Emeritus at The Church of Saint Mary-the-Virgin, Oak Bay, October 1986
 - 1.6.10 War Medals, 1939-1945: Large set & small set
 - 1939-45 Star
 - Africa Star with clasp North Africa 1942-43
 - Defence Medal
 - War Medal 1939-45
- 1.7 Instrumental Music -- Early Compositions, 1930-1932:
 - Several sheets of manuscript possibly related to title page The Nursery Suite for violoncello and piano. Included is a Serenade for violin and piano, and a Gigue for cello and piano
- 1.8 Instrumental Music -- The Nursery Suite:
 - A set of four piano pieces which appear to be studies possibly written for an assignment in an elementary composition class at Clifton College. Teddy Bear's Bath, The Dolls' Dance, Lullaby, Good Night
- 1.9 Instrumental Music -- Suite for Strings:
 - The piano part of Suite for Strings by J.S. Bach, transcribed from the figured bass by Charles Palmer. Possibly a school assignment while at Clifton College
- 1.10 Instrumental Music -- Theme and Variations on a carol tune:
 - For string quartet. Includes separate parts and full score
- 1.11 Instrumental Music -- Two Melodies for violin and cello, n.d.
- 1.12 Instrumental Music -- The Gig:
 - The Gig, for violin and piano. A complete score and a separate violin part. No date. Neatly written and carefully edited
- 1.13 Instrumental Music -- Quartet Movement:
 - For string quartet, printed in quantity for performance by string orchestra. Master copy included for possible future printing, n.d.
- 1.14 Instrumental Music -- Music for Brass and Strings:

Master copy included for possible future printing of full score and individual parts. About 1963

- 1.15 Instrumental Music -- Little Piece for the Pops:
For flute and strings, full score and individual parts, manuscript, n.d.
- 1.16 Instrumental Music -- Night Falls on the Prairies:
For trumpet and piano, copyright 1992, Master copy of full score and separate trumpet part, edited for use to accompany modern dance
- 1.17 Secular Choral Music -- The Mirror:
Solo voice with piano accompaniment, date 1929, three manuscript versions, one for SATB unaccompanied, one printed copy
- 1.18 Secular Choral Music -- Music when soft voices die:
For a semi-chorus of picked voices and a second larger chorus unaccompanied, dated 1932, manuscript copy
- 1.19 Secular Choral Music -- Two Short Songs:
Twinkletoes & Requiem, for mezzo-soprano and piano accompaniment, dated 1932, manuscript copy
- 1.20 Secular Choral Music -- Drink to me only with thine eyes:
The traditional melody with a new piano accompaniment, no date, manuscript copy
- 1.21 Secular Choral Music -- Land of the Southern Cross:
Baritone solo with piano accompaniment, no date, manuscript copy
- 1.22 Secular Choral Music -- Orpheus with his lute:
Solo voice with piano accompaniment, dated 1941, two printed copies, one manuscript copy and Master copy
- 1.23 Secular Choral Music -- Whither, O Splendid Ship:
For SA choir with piano accompaniment, copyright 1941, two printed copies and Master copy
- 1.24 Secular Choral Music -- Fancy's Knell:
For SATB choir with flute obligato, no date, but was performed in Vancouver in 1950, two printed copies, one manuscript copy, and Master copy
- 1.25 Secular Choral Music -- High Flight:
For Unison Boys choir unaccompanied, copyright 1993, two printed copies
- 1.26 Sacred Choral Music -- Inside Bethlehem:
Music and Cheer, a carol by Sydney Terrold, for SATB and organ, dated 1932
- 1.27 Sacred Choral Music -- O Lord, Support Us:
Chant for SATB, dated 1937, Master copy included for possible future printing
- 1.28 Sacred Choral Music -- Psalm 23:
For Baritone solo with keyboard accompaniment, dated 1938, manuscript copy well written and carefully edited
- 1.29 Sacred Choral Music -- Nunc Dimitis:
For Bass solo and SATB with organ accompaniment, no date, manuscript copy
- 1.30 Sacred Choral Music -- The Wind Bloweth Where It Listeth:
Antiphon for Baritone solo and SATB, no date, Master copy included

- 1.31 Sacred Choral Music -- Kyrie:
Chorus and solo unaccompanied, two printed copies
- 1.32 Sacred Choral Music -- Sanctus and Benedictus:
Unison voices with organ accompaniment, no date, two printed copies marked with some revision and a manuscript revision for last measure of the organ part
- 1.33 Sacred Choral Music -- Agnus Dei:
Solo and chorus unaccompanied, two printed copies with markings by C.P. for printer, n.d.
- 1.34 Sacred Choral Music -- Te Deum:
A chant setting for Tenor solo and SATB with orchestra accompaniment, original 52 large pages of manuscript, one printed vocal score, and Master copies of full score, individual instrument parts, and vocal score, dated 1938
- 1.35 Published Duplicates
- 1.36 Published Duplicates -- Quartet movement
- 1.37 Published Duplicates -- Quartet movement