

GLAMORGAN RECORD OFFICE/ARCHIFYDY MORGANNWG

Reference code: GB 214 D159
Title: CAERPHILLY MUSIC CLUB
Date(s) 1964-1998
Level of description: Fonds (level 2)
Name of creator(s) 2 boxes, 1 folder; 0.05 cubic metres.

Administrative/Biographical history

The impetus for the establishment of the Caerphilly Music Club came from a group of students studying an adult education course in Music Appreciation. The course was held at Groeswen Secondary School, Caerphilly (now St. Cenydd Comprehensive School), under the tuition of Mr Alourihan. The members of the class decided to join together in order to organise a season of concerts to be held in Caerphilly during the autumn and winter months. A trial event was organised for the 14th of March 1964. It was held at Groeswen School, and the Silurian Male Voice Choir was booked to perform, along with soprano Winifred Roberts, and pianists Mervyn Bunch and Walter Ryan. The evening was a resounding success.

This success led to the establishment of the Caerphilly Music Club, which organised its first full season during the autumn/winter of 1964/65. Their aim was to provide a programme to suit all tastes, at a low price. Concerts were initially held at Groeswen School, but the venue later changed to the hall of the Boys Grammar School (now St. Martin's Comprehensive School). A Committee was established to take control of administrative matters, along with the booking of artists.

The Club was financed through grant aid from the Welsh Arts Council and the local authority (Caerphilly Urban District Council, Rhymney Valley District Council and Caerphilly County Borough Council in turn). Support was also received from Caerphilly Town Council. Unfortunately, financial problems meant that extraordinary meetings had to be called in 1973 and in 1984 in order to discuss the gravity of the Club's monetary situation. Luckily, the Club managed to survive both these crises.

In terms of artists booked to perform, Caerphilly Music Club has been lucky in securing several well known performers. These include the world-renowned guitarist John Williams (1965/66), Stuart Burrows (1968/69) and Bryn Terfel (1989).

One third of the original members of the Club were pensioners. From the 1969/70 season onwards, this figure gradually increased, reaching a peak of two thirds in 1983/84. From 1993 onwards, the membership as a whole began to decline. This was accompanied by poor levels of attendance at concerts, and at Annual General Meetings. It also became increasingly difficult to find members willing to volunteer to serve on the Committee. It was decided that if no nominations for Committee offices were received at the 1998 Annual General Meeting, the Club would vote to disband itself. No nominations were received, and the Club ceased to exist. All outstanding funds were donated, with the agreement of the Arts Council Wales and the Local Authority, to St. Martin's Comprehensive School Music Department, for the purchase of instruments for pupils who could not afford such a purchase themselves.

Scope and content

The records of Caerphilly Music Club comprise minutes of Committee meetings and Annual General meetings; membership records; financial papers; a small number of general administrative papers; publicity material, including programmes, posters and newspaper cuttings; and a history of the club, 1964-1998.

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information

All records offered have been accepted and listed

Conditions governing access

Open Access

Conditions governing reproduction

Normal Glamorgan Record Office conditions apply.

Language/Scripts of material

English

Physical characteristics and technical requirements

Good condition

Finding aids

Detailed list available.

Date(s) of descriptions

February 2003

D159/1-6	Minutes	1964 – 1998
D159/1	Minutes of Committee meetings and Annual General Meetings 1 vol.	May 1964 – Dec. 1966
D159/2	Minutes of Committee meetings and Annual General Meetings 1 vol.	Jan. 1967 – May 1970
D159/3	Minutes of Committee meetings and Annual General Meetings 1 vol.	Sep. 1970 – Sep. 1979
D159/4	Minutes of Annual General Meetings 1 vol.	May 1977 – May 1998
D159/5	Minutes of Committee meetings 1 vol.	Nov. 1979 – Nov. 1990 Sep. 1994 – Apr. 1998
D159/6	Minutes of Committee meetings and Annual General Meetings 1 vol.	Oct. 1990 – Apr. 1993
D159/7-9	Membership records	1965 – 1998
D159/7	Membership cards 1 env.	1965 – 1998
D159/8	Membership record book 1 vol.	1974 – 1989
D159/9	Membership record book 1 vol.	1989 – 1998
D159/10-12	Financial papers	1964-1998
D159/10	Cash book 1 vol.	Aug. 1964 – Mar. 1985
D159/11	Statements of account 1 folder	1966 – 1998
D159/12	Account book 1 vol.	Apr. 1985 – Sep. 1998

D159/13-14	Administrative papers	c.1989 – 1990
D159/13	Draft and final constitution 1 env.	nd [1980s]
D159/14	General administrative papers comprising a newsletter, correspondence and questionnaire 1 env.	Sep. 1989 – Jan. 1990
D159/15-20	Publicity material	1964 – 1998
D159/15	Early posters 1 folder	nd [c.1964 - 1970s]
D159/16	Information concerning artists who performed for the Caerphilly Music Club 1 env.	nd [c.1964 – 1980s]
D159/17	Programmes 1 env.	1964 – 1998
D159/18	Papers concerning liaison with the press 1 env.	1977 – 1996
D159/19	Newspaper cuttings 1 env.	1977 – 1997
D159/20	Posters 1 env.	1989 – 1996
D159/21	History	1998
D159/21	History of Caerphilly Music Club, 1964-1998 1 folder	1998