

University of Sheffield Library. *Special Collections and Archives*

Ref: **PE 20**

Title: **Sheffield Concerts Collection**

Scope: *A collection of programmes, souvenirs, etc. for concerts held mostly in Sheffield between 1896 and 1984.*

Dates: 1896-1984

Level: Fonds

Extent: 1 box

Name of creator: Unknown

Administrative / biographical history:

The collection came to the Library from an unknown source, but it may have been put together by Arthur S. Burrows, conductor and chorus master, as it contains two letters written to him and many of the programmes include his name. The collection consists of programmes, prospectuses, fliers and other material relating to the Sheffield Musical Festival, the Sheffield Musical Union, the Sheffield Philharmonic Society and Concerts, the Victoria Hall Choral Society and City of Sheffield Music in the Parks, as well as items relating to other musical events in Sheffield and elsewhere.

Musical Festivals were held in Sheffield in the early 19th century, but they had lapsed until 1895 when some members of the St. Cecilia Musical Society called a meeting to discuss the possibility of reviving them. The first took place on October 10th 1895, as a single performance of Mendelssohn's "Elijah", conducted by Dr. Henry Coward. Its success led to a second Festival in 1896, and the establishment of a triennial Musical Festival in Sheffield.

The Sheffield Musical Union chorus was set up in 1876 by Dr. Coward, and was particularly noted for its triumphant performance of Elgar's "Dream of Gerontius" and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony at the Queen's Hall in London on April 9th 1904. Press reports suggested that "No choir that we know of can compete with the Sheffield singers in mastery over every effect that the most exacting critic could ... expect from a choir". In 1908, the chorus took part in a tour of Canada and the United States, followed in 1911 by an even more ambitious six-month world tour, covering 34,000 miles and giving 134 concerts in Canada, The United States, Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania and South Africa. Dr. Coward remained its conductor for 57 years, retiring in 1933.

The Sheffield Philharmonic Society was formed in 1935 to put on an annual series of concerts in the new Sheffield City Hall, many given by the Hallé Orchestra. The Sheffield Amateur Musical Society, established in 1864, was adopted as the resident chorus, and renamed itself the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus. In 1937, this merged with the Sheffield Musical Union to form a large choir of almost 400 members. After World War II, John Barbirolli became conductor of the Hallé Orchestra, and instigated a revival in its fortunes. The SPO was closely associated with both the conductor and the orchestra, and took part in concerts both in Sheffield and around the country to great acclaim.

(Notes compiled from the web page of the *Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus* and from *Souvenir of the Sheffield Musical Festivals of 1896, 1899, 1902...* (Sheffield: Pawson & Brailsford, 1902), *Professor Johann Kruse's Second Musical Festival: April 1904* (Sheffield: Sheffield Musical Union, 1904) and *The first ten years: being an account of the activities of the Sheffield Philharmonic Society since the date of its formation, 2nd August 1935* (Sheffield: the Society, 1945)

Related collections: Shera Manuscripts

Source: Unknown

System of arrangement: By category, and chronologically

Subjects: Music - Sheffield

Names: Sheffield Musical Festival; Sheffield Musical Union; Sheffield Philharmonic Society; Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus; Burrows, Arthur S.

Conditions of access: Academic researchers by appointment

Restrictions: None

Copyright: By document

Finding aids: Listed

Itemised List

PE 20/1 Sheffield Musical Festival

- /1 Certificate, Sheffield Musical Festival 1896, presented to Mrs. A. Shera as a member of the Honorary Chorus, signed by the President (the Duke of Norfolk), the Conductor (August Manns), the Chorus Master (Henry Coward), and the Honorary Secretaries (E. Willoughby Firth and John Uttley). Printed & ms., 18 x 23 cm

- /2 Collection of programmes, bound up, for 6 Sheffield Musical Festival concerts, on Oct 11, 12 and 13 1899. Printed, 255 pages, 19 x 25 cm.

- /3 a) Souvenir of the Sheffield Musical Festival, Oct 11, 12 and 13 1899, presented by the Festival Association to Members of the Voluntary Chorus. Printed, 138 pages, 18 x 24 cm.
 b) Second copy donated by Mrs. M.B. Richardson
 c) Third copy (owned by Joseph Platts) donated by Mr. Michael Smith

- /4 Collection of programmes, bound up, for 6 Sheffield Musical Festival concerts, on October 1, 2 and 3 1902. Printed, 217 pages, 19 x 24 cm.

- /5 Programme for the final meeting of the Chorus of the Sheffield Musical Festival 1902, Friday Dec 19 1902 at the Town Hall. Printed, 9 x 18 cm.

- /6 Programme for Sheffield Musical Festival concert, Thursday Oct 8 1908. (Among the artistes for "Die Meistersinger": Mr. A.S. Burrows). Printed, 54 pages, 19 x 24 cm.

- /7 Souvenir of the Sheffield Musical Festival, 1902: 'The Musician's Pilgrimage' by J.A. Fuller Maitland (London: Smith, Elder & Co., 1902). Printed, 152 pages, 19 x 13 cm. (Owned by Joseph Platts, donated by Mr. Michael Smith).

PE 20/2 Sheffield Musical Union:

- /1 Sheffield Musical Union - Two Subscription Concerts, Thursday Jan 28 and Thursday Mar 25 1909, Albert Hall, [Sheffield]. Flier. Printed, 9 x 11 cm.

- /2 Sheffield Musical Union – Concert, Feb 14 1910, Queen’s Hall, London. Notice of rehearsals (5 copies, two with hand-written notes on reverse). Printed & ms. 13 x 21 cm.
- /3 Performance of Elgar’s “Dream of Gerontius”, Arundel Castle, Jul 14 1910. Ticket. Printed, 11 x 8 cm.
- /4 Sheffield Musical Union 16th Annual Grand performance of Handel’s “Messiah”, Thursday Dec 14 1916, Albert Hall, Sheffield. Flier. Printed, 14 x 23 cm.
- /5 Sheffield Musical Union Chorus and Full Orchestra Special Extra Performance of Handel’s “Messiah”, Thursday Dec 22 1921, Victoria Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 9 x 24 cm.
- /6 Sheffield Musical Union – Season 1923-24: Third Subscription Concert, Thursday Mar 20 1924, Victoria Hall, [Sheffield]. Programme. Printed, 9 x 24 cm.
- /7 Sheffield Musical Union – Forty-ninth season, 1924-25: Three Subscription Concerts. Prospectus (with envelope). (Secretary of the SMU: Mr. A.S. Burrows). Printed, 14 x 22 cm.
- /8 Sheffield Musical Union – 50th season, 1925-26: Three Subscription Concerts and two Jubilee Concerts. Prospectus. Printed, 14 x 22 cm.
- /9 Sheffield Musical Union – Fifty-third season, 1928-29: Third Subscription Concert, Thursday Mar 21 1929, Victoria Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 15 x 23 cm.
- /10 Sheffield Musical Union – Fifty-fourth season, 1929-30: Three Subscription Concerts. Prospectus. Printed, 14 x 22 cm.
- /11 Sheffield Musical Union: Performance of Handel’s “Solomon” Mar 26 1931. Information on numbers to be performed (3 copies). Printed, 27 x 21 cm.
- /12 Sheffield Musical Union – 59th season, 1934-35: Second Subscription Concert, Thursday Nov 15 1934, City Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 14 x 22 cm. (Includes letter to chorus members about attendance at rehearsals)
- /13 Sheffield Musical Union Chorus and Orchestra: Complimentary Concert to Sir Henry Coward, Tuesday Apr 16 1935, Victoria Hall, Sheffield. Souvenir Programme. Printed, 14 x 22 cm.

- /14 Newscutting from *Ideas* Apr 1 1908, on Dr. Henry Coward, Conductor of the Sheffield Musical Union. Printed
- /15 Instructions to chorus on pronunciation of words and on when to sit and stand in various works. Printed and ms. 5 pages
- /16 Letter to Mr. A.S. Burrows, Chorus Master of the Sheffield Musical Union, from H. Coward, Conductor of the Sheffield Musical Union [1926]. Ms.
- /17 Letter to Mr A.S. Burrows, Chorus Master of the Sheffield Musical Union, from ? Cole, Jun 27 1933. Ms.

PE 20/3 Sheffield Philharmonic Society

- /1 Autumn Season 1943: Fourth fortnightly Sheffield Philharmonic Society concert, Friday Dec 3 1943, City Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 10 x 17 cm.
- /2 Performance of "Messiah" (Handel), Saturday Jan 1 1944, City Hall, [Sheffield]. Flier. Printed, 10 x 16 cm.
- /3 January to March Season 1944: Sixth fortnightly Sheffield Philharmonic Society concert, Friday Mar 24 1944, City Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 10 x 17 cm.
- /4 Fortnightly Friday Series 1945: Seventh Sheffield Philharmonic Society concert, Friday Dec 14 1945, City Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 10 x 17 cm.
- /5 Sheffield Philharmonic Society concert, Tuesday Jun 29 1948, City Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 14 x 22 cm.
- /6 3 Photographs, 2 of concert in Sheffield City Hall, 1 of rehearsal. Taken by Sheffield Telegraph and Star Limited

PE 20/4 Sheffield Philharmonic Concerts

- /1 Season 1969-70: Concert, Saturday Dec 6 1969, City Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 14 x 22 cm.

- /2 Season 1970-71: Concert, Saturday Dec 12 1970, City Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 15 x 21 cm.
- /3 Season 1972-73 – Thirtyseventh season: Concert, Saturday Dec 16 1972, City Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 15 x 21 cm.
- /4 Season 1973-74 – 38th season: Concert, Saturday Dec 8 1973, City Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 15 x 21 cm.
- /5 Season 1973-74 – 38th season: Concert, Saturday Dec 15 1973, City Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 15 x 21 cm.
- /6 Season 1975-76: Concert, Saturday Dec 6 1975, City Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 15 x 21 cm.
- /7 Season 1976-77: Concert, Saturday Oct 30 1976, City Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 15 x 21 cm.
- /8 Season 1976-77: Concert, Saturday Dec 4 1976, City Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 15 x 21 cm.
- /9 Silver Jubilee Concert 1977: Saturday Jun 18 1977, City Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 15 x 21 cm.
- /10 Season 1977-78: Concert, Saturday Dec 3 1977, City Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 15 x 21 cm.
- /11 Season 1978-79: Concert, Saturday Dec 2 1978, City Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 15 x 21 cm.
- /12 Season 1980-81: Concert, Saturday Dec 13 1980, City Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 15 x 21 cm.
- /13 Season 1983-84 – Forty-ninth season: Concert, Saturday Apr 7 1984, City Hall, Sheffield. Programme. Printed, 15 x 21 cm.

PE 20/5 Victoria Hall Choral Society:

- /1 Victoria Hall Choral Society Chorus ticket no. 113, in brown envelope with name card – Miss B.L. Mellor, 741 Abbeydale Road, Sheffield

- /2 Victoria Hall Choral Society Concert, Sunday Nov 8 1925, St. Paul's Church, [Sheffield]. Programme. (Conductor: Mr. Arthur S. Burrows). Printed, 14 x 22 cm.
- /3 Victoria Hall newsletter, Sunday Apr 10 1932, advertising a concert by the Victoria Hall Choral Society. (Conductor: Arthur S. Burrows). Printed, 14 x 22 cm. (2 copies)
- /4 Victoria Hall Choral Society Mozart Concert with Lemare Orchestra, Saturday Mar 26 1955. Programme (Conductors: Iris Lemare, Edward Taylor; solo pianist: Myra Loewe). Printed, 14 x 22 cm.

PE 20/6 Music in the Parks:

- /1 City of Sheffield Music in the Parks: Performance of Sir Edward German's "Tom Jones" by Victoria Hall Choral Society and Orchestra, Jun 19 1930, Graves Park, Sheffield. Programme. (Conductor: Arthur S. Burrows; among the Characters: Miss Frances Burrows). Printed, 14 x 22 cm.
- /2 Newscutting, probably from *Sheffield Telegraph and Star* reporting on the above concert
- /3 City of Sheffield Music in the Parks: Performance of Mendelssohn's Symphony-Cantata "Hymn of Praise" by the Dearne Valley Musical Union and the Barnboro' Main Orchestra, Jul 6 1930, Graves Park, Sheffield. Programme. (Conductor: Arthur S. Burrows). Printed, 14 x 22 cm.
- /4 Letter from A.S. Burrows, Organiser and Conductor, to members of the Massed Choir for Park Performances, Jun 5 1931. Printed, 21 x 27 cm.

PE 20/7 Miscellaneous:

- /1 Oxford Street U.M.F.C. [Sheffield]: Choir Festival, Sunday Mar 25 1906. Programme. (Among the Principals: Mr. William Burrows). Printed, 11 x 19 cm.
- /2 Grand Complimentary Concert to the Wounded, Hospital Staff and Soldiers in Sheffield and District, Saturday Nov 27 1915, Albert Hall, [Sheffield]. Programme. (Hon. Musical Director: Mr. A.S. Burrows). Printed, 19 x 26 cm.

- /3 Beverley Choral Society: Musical Service, Wednesday Dec 10 1924, The Minster, [Beverley]. Programme. Printed, 15 x 24 cm.
- /4 Great Triennial Handel Festival, Saturday Jun 5 1926, Crystal Palace. General Rehearsal Programme. Printed, 19 x 25 cm. (3 copies)
- /5 Performance of Haydn's Oratorio "The Creation" by the Wesley Choir (specially augmented), Sunday Nov 21 1926, Wesley Chapel, Toll Gavel, Beverley. Programme. Printed, 13 x 20 cm.
- /6 South Elmsall Choral Society: Performance of Montague Phillip's "The Rebel Maid", Thursday Feb 13 1930, South Kirkby Church Hall. Programme. (Among the Artistes: Miss Frances Burrows). Printed, 13 x 20 cm.
- /7 Torquay Musical Festival, Oct 10-13 1934, The Pavilion, Torquay. Flier. Printed, 9 x 21 cm.
- /8 Derby Choral Union: Performance of Saint-Saens' Opera "Samson and Delilah", Wednesday Dec 12 1934, Drill Hall, Becket Street, Derby. Programme, including Instructions to Chorus. (Conductor: Mr. Arthur Burrows). Printed, 15 x 23 cm.
- /9 Leeds Philharmonic Society, Season 1955-56: Third Concert, Wednesday Mar 28 1956, Town Hall, Leeds. Programme. Printed, 19 x 25 cm.
- /10 Halle Concerts Society, One Hundred and Eleventh Season: Concert by the Halle Orchestra, Sunday Dec 1 1968, King's Hall, Belle Vue, Manchester. Programme. Printed, 14 x 21 cm.
- /11 Halle Concerts Society, One Hundred and Twelfth Season: Concert by the Halle Orchestra, Sunday Dec 7 1969, King's Hall, Belle Vue, Manchester. Programme. Printed, 14 x 21 cm.
- /12 Grand Concert by Workers' Educational Association 'Musical Appreciation Classes', Saturday Mar 1 [n.d.], Firth Hall, Sheffield University. Flier. Printed, 15 x 23 cm.
- /13 Performance of Mendelssohn's "St. Paul" (Part 1), Sunday Apr 26 [n.d.], Queen's Road Wesleyan Church, [Sheffield]. Programme. Printed, 14 x 22 cm.
- /14 Choir Festival, Sunday Jun 19 [n.d.], St. Barnabas Church, [Sheffield]. Programme. Printed, 17 x 20 cm.

- /15 Bradwell Choral Society: Two Concerts, Saturday May 9 [n.d.], Loxley Hall, Hope, and Saturday May 16 [n.d.], Memorial Hall, Bradwell. Programme. (Soloist: Mr. A.S. Burrows). Printed, 13 x 21 cm.

PE 20/8 St. Cecilia Musical Society (items donated by Mr. Michael Smith)

- /1 Account book: 'The St. Cecilia Musical Society'. many pages torn out, but contains details of income and expenditure for 1892 to 1898. Ms., 7 pages, 24 x 21 cm.
- /2 Report of Committee [of St. Cecilia Musical Society], season 1897-8. Ms., 2 pages, 33 x 21 cm.
- /3 Letter to accompany programme of works by the St. Cecilia Musical Society. **1896 Sep 4**. From Joseph Platts, Hon. Sec.
Address: Intake Road, Park, Sheffield
Printed, 1 page, 21 x 17 cm.
- /4 Letter of sympathy on death of Joseph Platts. **1908 May 1**. From Noel W. Burbridge, Hon. Sec. of St. Cecilia Musical Society to Mrs. Joseph Platts.
Address: Bank Street, Sheffield
Ms., 1 page, 26 x 21 cm.
- /5 Newscutting, Sept 1896, concerning St. Cecilia Musical Society.
- /6 Newscutting, Dec 1897, concerning St. Cecilia Musical Society.
- /7 Newscutting, July 1937. Letter concerning St. Cecilia Musical Society by William Brown of Bournemouth. (2 copies)
- /8 Newscutting, [n.d.], concerning Sheffield Musical Festival and Joseph Platts.
- /9 Newscutting, Apr 29 1908. Announcement of death of Mr. Joseph Platts, 'the Father of the Sheffield Musical Festival'. With photograph.
- /10 Newscutting, Apr 30 1908. Obituary of Mr. Joseph Platts

- /11 Newscutting, [May 1908]. Describes Joseph Platts' contribution to music in Sheffield.
- /12 Copy of photograph of Joseph Platts and family at Sheffield Cemetery, where he was superintendent.
- /13 Copy of Marriage Certificate of Joseph Platts' daughter, Clara Lilian to William Henry Smith, Dec 26 1917, at the Parish Church of St. John, Sheffield
- /14 Copy of Birth certificate of Clara's son, Sydney Francis Smith, Feb 5 1924, at Holmesfield
- /15 Copy of Marriage Certificate of Sydney to Pamela Joy Doreen Blower, Nov 11 1944, at St. Giles Church, Normanton-by-Derby. (Parents of Michael Smith, donor)
- /16 Family tree showing descendants of Joseph Platts, drawn up by Michael Smith