Carl M. Wolff Fonds RG 429

RG 429

Brock University Archives

Creator: Carl M. Wolff

Extent: 2.45 m. (6 1/2 boxes) textual records
2 col. post cards
4 col. photographs, 136 b&w photographs
5 col. slides

Abstract: The textual material of the Carl M. Wolff fonds includes minutes, clerical records, clippings, correspondence, programs, photographs and various other materials that document the life of Carl Wolff and his involvement in the St. Catharines Community Concert Association, the Niagara Symphony Association and Brock University.

Materials: Minutes, clippings, correspondence, photographs, flyers, posters, programs and scores.

Repository: Brock University Archives

Processed by: Anne Adams

Finding Aid: Anne Adams

Last Updated: September 2018

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Preferred Citation: RG 429, Carl M. Wolff fonds, 1933-2018, n.d. (non-inclusive)

Acquisition Info.: Files were donated by Carl Wolff on behalf of the Niagara Symphony Association and the St. Catharines Community Concert Association on Sept. 21, 2012
Administrative History:

Carl Marcus Wolff was born in Arnprior, Ontario in 1937. He attended local high schools and studied music (piano and theory). He received his ARTC (Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto) in piano performance and teaching while he was still in high school. In 1958 he graduated from Carleton University with first class honours in history. He won the Governor General’s Medal for graduating at the head of his class and was the first Carleton graduate to be awarded a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. In 1959 he obtained an M.A. from Harvard University. He was also a member of the Harvard University Choir (1959-1964) and assistant editor (research) for the Harvard University Hymnbook, 1964.

In 1965, Carl Wolff was appointed to the teaching staff at Brock University as an Assistant Professor of History. He was commissioned by President James A. Gibson to acquire a Dowd harpsichord and the Boesendorfer grand piano for the Thistle Theatre.

In addition to his teaching duties, Carl Wolff has been an integral part of the Niagara Symphony, St. Catharines Community Concerts, the Brock Fine Arts Committee and Brock University convocations. Professor Wolff joined the St. Catharines Community Concert Association during the 1960s. He held the position of Artist Committee Co-chairman in this Association from 1981-1985. In the 1985-1986 season through 1986-1987, he took over as president. In 1987 until 1989, he was the past president and chair of the nominations committee. In 1990, he became co-chair of the artists committee. He also served as secretary and remained a member of the Community Concert Association Board until the group disbanded in 1999.

The Community Concert Associations were autonomous associations organized by individual communities. They were affiliated with Community Concerts Inc. which was a subsidiary of Columbia Artists Management Inc. in New York. In 1922 Ward French developed an Organized Audience Movement in which volunteers within each community would participate in the organizing of concerts. The local community would hold a one-week membership campaign and hire artists based on the proceeds of that campaign. The idea was so successful, that in 1928 it was taken up by Columbia Concerts Corporation which became Columbia Arts Management Inc. in 1948. Representatives from New York visited each community and provided information about available artists. The associations agreed to book their performers through Community Concerts Inc. New York.
In 1930, Kitchener became the first Canadian city to organize its own Community Concert Association. Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes all formed their own associations. In 1955 Community Concerts of Canada Inc. was incorporated as a subsidiary of Community Concerts Inc. In the 1950s there were 75 Community Concert Associations in Canada. The St. Catharines Association was established in 1930 and offered a regular concert series until 1999.

source: http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/articles/emc/community-concert-associations

Carl Wolff’s association with the Niagara Symphony (then the St. Catharines Symphony) also began in the mid-1960s. He served on the symphony board for a number of years and served, at times, as the newsletter editor and secretary. He played organ and harpsichord continuo in orchestral concerts as needed.

He served as Master of Convocation of Music at Brock University from 1965 until 2000. He also served on the Brock Fine Arts Committee until his sabbatical in 1971-72. During this year, he traveled to London, England to do research on the Development of Music in 19th Century English Society.

He was a member of the Brock University History Department from 1965-2000, retiring as an Associate Professor. He taught British and European Political and Cultural History. Since his retirement from Brock, Professor Wolff has served on the Executive of the Niagara Peninsula Centre of the Royal Canadian College of Organists and was the president of this association from 2010-2013. He was also a member of the choir at St. Barnabas Anglican Church in St. Catharines. Carl Wolff died in Arnprior on August 29, 2018.

**Scope and Content:**

The bulk of the materials consist of administrative records, minutes programs and publicity material for The Niagara Symphony Association, St. Catharines Community Concerts, The Brock University Fine Arts Committee and Brock University convocations. The original order has been maintained where possible and where no order existed, like records were brought together. Some of the series are divided into sub-series based on subject matter or record format.

**Organization:**

The records are arranged into 5 series.

**Series I – St. Catharines Community Concert Association, 1933-1995, n.d.**

Sub-series A. Minutes
Sub-series B. Administrative Records
Sub-series C. Performances and Publicity
Sub-series D. Clippings
Sub-series E. Proposal for Convention Centre
Sub-series F. Newsletters
Sub-series G. Miscellaneous items


Sub-series A. Minutes
Sub-series B. Administrative Records
Sub-series C. Performances and Publicity
Sub-series D. Music


Sub-series A. Correspondence
Sub-series B. Performances and Publicity
Sub-series C. The Ontario Campus Culture Association


Sub-series A. Correspondence
Sub-series B. Music


**Inventory:**

**Series I – St. Catharines Community Concert Association, 1933-1995, n.d.**


1.1 A bound book of handwritten minutes, 1934-1943


Sub-series B. Administrative Records including: correspondence, membership lists, preference polls, cash book, membership campaign kits, Community Concert handbooks, Community Concert documents, tickets, membership applications and receipts,

1.7 – 2.17 Correspondence including campaign reports, stage instructions, communications with Community Concerts Inc., contracts, and instrument rentals, 1934-1993

2.18 Membership lists including officers and directors, 1933-1960, n.d.


2.20-3.4 Membership lists including officers and directors, 1970-1995

3.5- 3.8 Preference polls (used as a guide for members to decide on the types of performers that they wished to see), 1968, 1981-1986

3.9 Bound cash book, 1936-1962

3.10 Worker’s envelopes and flyers for the membership campaigns, n.d.


Sub-series C. Performances and Publicity includes promotional material for artists who performed in the St. Catharine Community Concerts series, pamphlets, posters and flyers. 1932-1993, n.d.


4.1 Promotional material for artists: Ethel Bartlett and Rae Robertson, Anna Kaskas, Lansing Hatfield and Patricia Travers, includes 7 b&w photographs, 1932-1940

4.2 Promotional material for artists: Dorothy Maynor, Morley and
Gearhart, Columbia All-Star Quintet, Witold Malcuzynski, Norman Condon, Mia Slavenska Dance Ensemble, Jean Watson, the Trapp Family Singers, James Melton, Busch Little Symphony, Gregor Piatigorsky, Leonard Warren, St. Louis Sinfonietta, John Sebastian, Mona Paulee, Dorothy Kirsten and Eugene Conley, Byron Janis, dePau’s Infantry Chorus, the Bel Canto Trio, Sascha Gorodnitzki, Joanna and Nicolai Graudan, Jane Hobson, the Revellers, Paul Makovsky, Kathleen Ferrier and Clifford Curzon, includes 52 b&w photographs, 1940-1950


4.4 Promotional material for artists: Beaux Arts Trio, Claude Frank, Robert De Cormier Folk Singers, Margaret Tynes, Zurich Chamber Orchestra, Simon Estes, Fou Ts’song, Lois Marshall, James Oliver Buswell IV, Prague Chamber Orchestra, Don Shirley Trio, Mildred Miller, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Westminster Choir, Jeffry and Ronald Marlowe and Richard Hayman and the Manhattan Pops Orchestra, includes 8 b&w photographs, 1960-1970


4.6 Promotional material for artists: Norbert Kraft, William Tritt, William Carter Dance Ensemble, Markham and Broadway, Aeolos Brass Quintet, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Canada Opera Piccola, Philip Thompson, Barbara Collier and Glyn Evans, Czech Chamber Soloists, Carol McLaughlin, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chorus, and Anagnoson and Kinton, includes 3 b&w photographs, 1980-1985

4.7 Promotional material for artists: Carrol McLaughlin, Anagnoson and Kinton, the Cambridge Buskers, Tafelmusik, Regenburg Cathedral Boys Choir, Judith Crocker, Colorado String Quartet and Composers’
Brass, includes 8 b&w photographs, 1985-1987

4.8 Promotional material for artists: Ruth and Ronald Moir, Anonymus, the Acrobats of the Pagoda of the Plentiful Lands, Lyra, Mr. Pickwick’s Stories for a Christmas Evening, John Arpin, the Vancouver Wind Trio, Leonid Kuzmin, James Campbell and Gene Di Novi, Michael Danso, Leland Chen and Beverley Johnston, includes 12 b&w photographs, 1987-1992

4.9 Catalogues of performers from head office in New York listed under various titles such as “Columbia Concerts Corporation Artists Manual”, “Community Concerts”, “Community Concerts – The Organized Audience Plan”, and “Community Concerts Attractions and Solo Artists” In this folder: “Columbia Concerts Corporation Artists Manual” which is a bound book and the paperback booklet entitled “Community Concerts”, 1932, 1951-1952


4.14 St. Catharines Community Concert pamphlets listing key personnel and performers, 1942-1992


5.2 Proposal for Convention Centre clippings, 1985, 1987

5.3 Proposal for Convention Centre notices, correspondence and reports of the auditorium committee, 1977-1978, n.d.
Sub-series F. Newsletters, 1986-1987

5.4 “Community Concerts Newsletter”, 1986-1987


5.5 Includes: a scrapbook from Madeleine Beattie Hopie which was donated to the St. Catharines Community Concert Association in November of 1981 and contains Community Concert programs from the 1940s; a napkin from the 25th anniversary of St. Catharines Community Concerts; a program from the St. Catharines Community Concerts 43rd annual dinner; 1 coloured photograph from Dr. Edgar Peer; a program for the 50th anniversary celebration of the St. Catharines Community Concert Association; a volunteer award from the Ontario Arts Council; 3 coloured photographs of the Community Concert campaign at the Fairview Mall and 2 coloured slides of The American Boychoir and Markham and Boadway, 2 coloured slides, 4 coloured photographs, 1940-1950, 1956, 1974, 1982, 1992, n.d.


5.6 Minutes, 1948, 1950-1954

5.7 Minutes including a bound book of handwritten minutes, 1950-1959

5.8 A binder of minutes, 1956, 1967


Sub-series B. Administrative Records including: Correspondence, Documents, Personnel lists, Women’s Committee Files, 1948-1979

5.13 Correspondence regarding the beginnings of the St. Catharines Civic Orchestra (Niagara Symphony Orchestra) including correspondence from Sir Ernest MacMillan. Also included is a list of the 1948 executive of the orchestra. 1948-1951

5.14-6.1 Correspondence including lists of executive members and band
personnel, a petition to keep Jan Wolanek as conductor (1957),
auditorium permits, revenues, information regarding young peoples’
concerts, music rentals, permits for use of auditoriums and requests for
donations, 1952-1968

6.2
Correspondence and proofs of the orchestra led by Milton Barnes, 6
b&w photographs, 1969-1971

6.3
Correspondence which includes the announcement of the appointment
of Leonard Atherton as conductor, 1972-1974

6.4
Correspondence, 1975

6.5
Correspondence about the co-operative program for string
scholarships, proposals for Symphony/Brock co-operation, Wintario
grant and the Symphony Association “sit-in”, 1976

6.6-6.7
Correspondence, 1977-1979

6.8
Documents of the Niagara Symphony Association including:
“(Proposed) Articles of Agreement between the St. Catharines
Symphony Orchestra Association Inc. and the St. Catharines
Musicians’ Association, Local 299 of the American Federation of
Musicians”; original “Constitution of the St. Catharines Civic Orchestra
Association”; “Orchestra Management”; “Constitution and Bylaws”;
“Special Resolution of the St. Catharines Civic Orchestra Association”;
“Application for Incorporation of a Corporation without Share
Capital”; “Province of Ontario Letters Patent incorporating the St.
Catharines Civic Orchestra Association”; “Third Draft of By Laws of
the St. Catharines Symphony Association and its Board of Directors”;
By-law no. 1; “Agreement between the St. Catharines Civic Orchestra
Association and the St. Catharines Musicians’ Association, Local 299

6.9
Documents including “Local 299 American Federation of Musicians
Draft Agreement” with comments, “Duties of Administrative Director
or Executive Director”, “Structure of Board of Governors”, “Interim
Planning Report of the Planning and Development Committee”,
memorandum of agreement between Press Theatre, Carousel Players
and Niagara Symphony Association concerning Robertson School,
Notes for the directors of the St. Catharines Symphony Association,
“By Law of the St. Catharines Symphony Association and its board of
directors”, “Agreement between the St. Catharines Symphony
Association and the St. Catharines Musicians’ Association, Local 299
of the American Federation of Musicians” 1976, 1978-1979

6.11-6.13 Niagara Symphony Women’s Committee files include: correspondence, financial statements, receipts, reports, personnel lists, minutes and newsletters, 1950-1969, 1974-1976


6.14 Programs from The Niagara Symphony Orchestra (also includes some programs from other orchestras which featured Jan Wolanek as conductor, 1952-1954, 1956-1968, 1971-1975


Sub-series E. Music, 1973

6.18 Score which was written by Milton Barnes, in memory of his father entitled: “The Psalms of David: a cantata”. This piece was commissioned by the Canada Council for the Arts to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the St. Catharines Symphony Orchestra, 1973


6.20 Correspondence about the sculpture “Concordia” by Eliza Mayhew, a list of paintings by Ian Henderson which are in the permanent collection at Brock University, a report by E. Gibson and information

6.21 Correspondence including information on the “Niagara Now ‘72” exhibit, 1972

6.22 Correspondence, 1973

6.23 Correspondence which includes invitations to artists Alfred Hoffman and John Moffat to present showings of original artworks. Also included are letters which recommend the improvement of the Brock tower entrance, 1974

6.24 Correspondence regarding the improvements which were made at the Brock Tower entrance, a news release on the exhibition of Canadian watercolors by the Canadian Society of Painters in the Water Color, the invitation to William Cyopik to have an exhibition of his paintings, 1975

7.1-7.2 Correspondence including: notes on the Ludwig Van Beethoven program, an inventory of the Brock University Fine Arts Collection and the Brock University Art Show catalogue, 1 b&w photograph, 1976, 1977


7.3 Programs, 1968, 1974-1976


7.5 Bach Brock Symposium includes: notes, program and flyer, 1984

7.6 Promotional material for performers and artists who took part in the Brock Fine Arts Series including: Jose Greco, Early Music Consort of London, Trio di Trieste, Glinka Quartet, Secolo Barocco, John Moffat, and Composers String Quartet, 1974, 1976, n.d.


Sub-series E. Ontario Campus Culture Association, 1973-1977

7.8 Includes: Newsletters, correspondence, information on a workshop that was held at Brock University in 1975, a clipping and a report on Cultural Programming at the post-secondary level in Ontario, 1973-
1977


**Sub-series A. Correspondence, 1975-1995**

7.9-7.12 Correspondence regarding the planning of the convocation music, hiring of musicians and stage setup, 1975-1995

**Sub-series B. Music, 1989**

7.13 Score for “Fanfare for a Convocation” for two trumpets and organ by Ronald Tremain, 1989

**Sub-series C. Slides, 1969**

7.14 3 coloured slides – the marking on the envelope was “Henderson & Dr. Gibson ??”, 3 coloured slides, 1969


7.15 Correspondence including thank you notes and a lifetime membership in the St. Catharines Public Library, 2 coloured postcards, and obituary 1975-1979, 2018

7.16 Convocation programs from Carleton University, 1958, 1969


**Subject Access:**

| 600 | Wolff, Carl M. |
| 600 | Tremain, Ronald, 1923-1998 |
| 600 | Barnes, Milton |
| 610 | Brock University -- Fine Arts |
| 610 | Brock University -- History |
| 610 | Brock University -- Convocation |
| 610 | Niagara Symphony Orchestra Association |
| 610 | Community Concerts, Inc. |

**Material Held at other Repositories:**
Information about the Niagara Symphony Association can be found at:

http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/articles/emc/niagara-symphony-association

http://thenso.ca/home

and at Niagara Symphony Orchestra fonds, Brock University Special Archives, RG 390

St. Catharines Community Concerts information can be found at:

http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/articles/emc/st-catharines-ont and

http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/articles/emc/community-concert-associations

Information about the Brock University Arts Collection can be found at:

Centre for the Arts, Brock University fonds, Brock University Archives, UA4

The Teutloff Collection at Brock University Kanada: nature, spirit, matter [editor, Lutz Teutloff], Brock University Archives, FC 3155.68 B75 L87 2002

Brock University permanent art collection / [Brock University Dept. of Fine Arts], Brock University Archives, N 7425 B76 1988

Information about Brock Convocation can be found at: Convocation records, Office of the Registrar, Brock University Archives, UA 7