11-26-2013

Bowling Green Music Club - Bowling Green, Kentucky (MSS 457)

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ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

The Woman’s Music Club was founded in 1896 in Bowling Green, Kentucky to promote musical study and performance. With twenty-eight charter members, the club met on the first and third Fridays of each month in one of the member’s homes. Meeting dates changed periodically and locations for public concerts were held throughout the community. Programs could include vocal or instrumental music, but lectures on musical topics were also allowed. The by-laws accorded harsh penalties for members who refused to be on the program when asked.

Information about the period from 1906 to 1922 is sketchy at best, and minutes for a meeting held on 22 November 1922 claims that the organization was organized on that date. A newspaper article from this date also notes that the Woman’s Music Club had been inactive for fifteen years. The new organization’s constitution and by-laws were adopted and published in December 1927; the document declares the Music Club’s objective “to promote the musical culture of its members and to foster in the community an increased knowledge and love of music.” At a meeting held on 10 January 1923, the program included “A History of the old Music Club” by Mrs. Ben Proctor. Unfortunately Mrs. Proctor’s treatise was not kept for posterity.

The organization changed its name and amended its constitution and by-laws on 7 October 1936. The group’s name was changed to the Bowling Green Music Club, and it opened its membership to men although it remained almost exclusively female. The Club continued its programming at least until 1961, but minutes are extant only through 7 May 1945. The constitution and by-laws were last amended on 7 April 1954.

The Woman’s Music Club founded the Bowling Green Junior Music Club in 1927 to “stimulate musical development through study and performance” for children between the ages of 12 and 18. It was operated by a Board of Directors that included the President of the senior club and the officers of the junior club. It was active through at least 1952. It, like its senior organization, held educational programs and member recitals and concerts as well as open concerts to which the public was invited. At one time it had a 35-member orchestra and a 40-voice choir. It, along with its senior organization, also performed for other musical clubs in the area as well as at competitions.
**COLLECTION NOTE**

This collection contains material from the Woman’s Music Club, the Bowling Green Music Club and the Bowling Green Junior Music Club. The collection includes minutes, governing documents, yearbooks, programs for public concerts, membership information, various reports, and news clippings. The most complete records are the yearbooks which include the programs produced by each group.

Box 2, Folder 4 includes an interesting pedagogical tool called *Young Folks’ Picture History of Music* by James Francis Cooke. It is a combination workbook and scrapbook in which illustrations are glued into prescribed boxes and children filled in answers to questions asked about the accompanying text.

**SHELF LIST**

**BOX 1**  
**BOWLING GREEN MUSIC CLUB**  
1896-1954  
56 items

- **Folder 1**  
  Inventory  
n.d.  
1 item

- **Folder 2**  
  Minutes  
1922-1935  
13 items

- **Folder 3**  
  Minutes  
1935-1945  
8 items

- **Folder 4**  
  Constitution and by-laws  
1925-1954  
6 items

- **Folder 5**  
  Yearbooks  
1896-1930  
12 items

- **Folder 6**  
  Yearbooks  
1930-1946  
16 items

**BOX 2**  
**BOWLING GREEN MUSIC CLUB**  
1900-1961  
213 items

- **Folder 1**  
  Yearbooks  
1946-1961  
15 items

- **Folder 2**  
  Annual reports  
1937-1939  
4 items

- **Folder 3**  
  Membership  
1935-1949  
3 items

- **Folder 4**  
  Correspondence  
1933-1939  
6 items

- **Folder 5**  
  Programs  
1900-1949  
79 items

- **Folder 6**  
  Clippings  
1922-1938  
6 items

- **Folder 7**  
  Miscellaneous  
1901-1957  
11 items
Folder 8  Bowling Green Junior Music Club minutes  1937-1941  16 items
Folder 9  Bowling Green Junior Music Club Constitution and Bylaws  1937-1938  2 items
Folder 10  Bowling Green Junior Music Club yearbooks  1934-1952  7 items
Folder 11  Bowling Green Junior Music Club annual reports  1939-1942  5 items
Folder 12  Bowling Green Junior Music Club membership  1937-1942  9 items
Folder 13  Bowling Green Junior Music Club correspondence  1938-1942  19 items
Folder 14  Bowling Green Junior Music Club programs  1937-1938  4 items
Folder 15  Bowling Green Junior Music Club financial information  1937-1938  8 items
Folder 16  Bowling Green Junior Music Club young folks picture history of music  1925  1 item
Folder 17  Bowling Green Junior Music Club miscellaneous  1937-1938  18 items

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS  BOWLING Green Music Club — 1896-1961
457  Bowling Green, Kentucky

Minutes, governing documents, yearbooks, programs for public concerts, membership information, various reports, and news clippings for the Woman’s Music Club, the Bowling Green Music Club and the Bowling Green Junior Music Club. 2 boxes. 23 folders. 269 items. Originals and photocopies.

SC2013.3.81

**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Armitage, Mary Julia, 1871-1958  B2,F4
Bowling Green Junior Music Club  B2,F8-17
Christmas cards  B2,F13
Clubs – Bowling Green  B2,F13
Honey Krust Bakery – Bowling Green – Relating to  B2,F13
Menus  B2,F17
Music and musical affairs – Bowling Green
Pianos B2,F4
Smith, Beulah Ethel (Morgan), 1894-1987 – Correspondence B2,F13
Woman’s Music Club – Bowling Green
Young Folks’ Picture History of Music B2,F16

SEE and SEE ALSO

Woman’s Music Club – Bowling Green
See also:
Bowling Green Music Club

Jeffrey  11/26/2013