

Smithers Harmonettes fonds

Fonds No. AF21

Physical Description: 4.5 cm of textual records; 5 sound recordings; 1 DVD

Date Range: [1964-1967; 2007]

Administrative History/Biographical Sketch

In 1959, Sister Mary Andrew, of the Order of the Holy Cross, began a glee club for the female students at St. Joseph's School, which included singing, folk dancing and acting. The original members of the St. Joseph's School Glee Club (aka Smithers Glee Club) included Charlotte Adomeit, Mary Anne Adomeit, Trudy Adomeit, Corrie Bazil, Mary Brinkac, Jean Calderwood, Judy Calderwood, Lorraine Calderwood, Elizabeth Duff, Rosemarie Duff, Sandra Haubrick, Judy Hidber, Tina Konst, Rita Maillot, Carol Miller, Joan Miller, Sharon Morris, Diane O'Neill, Dora Sikkes, Jane Sikkes, Gerry Silver, Glenda Spicer, and Lorraine Spicer. Many of these girls originally sang in the Children's Choir at the Catholic Church with direction from Carl Spicer.

In 1961, the Smithers Glee Club traveled to Kitimat, B.C., to enter a drama competition and won an award for their performance of "Flapper Girls". The Smithers Glee Club performed in a number of locations outside of Smithers, including Burns Lake and Prince Rupert. Dick Heggie drove the Smithers Glee Club to their out of town performances, while Sister Gregory and Sister Francis Ann (also of the Order of the Holy Cross) chaperoned.

Eventually, the Smithers Glee Club solely focused on singing, developing into a Choral Group. The Choral Group included both girls from St. Joseph's School and Smithers Secondary School. The girls suggested a new name for this collective and soon they were known as the Smithers Harmonettes. In 1963, Eric Ekman joined as guitarist and a singer. Jack and Ed Rea joined as singers in 1964.

The Smithers Harmonettes performed at a number of events, including the inauguration of the Queen of Prince Rupert ferry (May 21, 1961) and the Seattle World's Fair (July 12 to July 17, 1962). The group performed live on a night-time program in Terrace, B.C. (February 14, 1964), as well as on CFTK for Alcan's 5th annual Christmas TV program in Kitimat, B.C., (1965).

The Harmonettes recorded their first album "Introducing the Harmonettes of Smithers, B.C." in November of 1964, which was followed by their second album "Good News."

In 1966, Sister Mary Andrew was relocated to Iona Academy, a girls' boarding school, in St. Raphael's Ontario. The Smithers Harmonettes continued to sing under the direction of Ed Rea, Vern Barge, Dave Forsythe and Carol Barter.

The Smithers Harmonettes most significant performance was at Expo '67 in Montreal, Q.C. Thirty-three girls and 10 chaperones left Smithers on April 20, 1967. Chaperones included Marisa Rae, RN, Carol Barter, RN, Dora Sikkes, PN, Marge (Barge) Henderson, Mrs. Forsythe and Mrs. Biro. The Harmonettes met Sister Mary Andrew in Alexandria, Ontario on April 26, who in turn took over directing the girls. The

group performed a concert at Alexandria Hall. On April 28, 1967, the Smithers Harmonettes arrived in Montreal. They performed two shows per day (one at 12:30 PM and another at 5:30 PM) for four days. They returned for Smithers on May 4, 1967, arriving on May 8, 1967. The girls were interviewed by Ron Eastman of CFBV upon their arrival in Smithers. This tour also resulted in the Harmonettes' final album: "Smithers Harmonettes Live at Montreal in 1967."

The last performance of the Smithers Harmonettes was at St. Joseph's Auditorium, which Sister Mary Andrew directed before returning to Ontario.

Custodial History

Records were collected by Carol Morris, a former member of the Smithers Harmonettes. They were originally arranged as a personal fonds numbered PF21. In June 2020 this was changed to an association fonds, AF21.

Scope and Content

Fonds reflects items created and used by members of the Smithers Harmonettes. The fonds is arranged into two series: sheet music and records, and historical accounts; as well as a file containing a scrapbook.

Sheet music and recordings

Series no.: **S1**

Part of: Smithers Harmonettes fonds

Related accessions: 2004.48, 2009.10

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records; 5 sound recordings

Date range: [1964-1967; 2007]

Scope and content

Series includes sheet music used by the Smithers Harmonettes, as well as CD and vinyl LP albums. Albums include "Smithers Harmonettes Remembered '2007' 40 year Reunion: Live at Montreal Expo 1967," "Introducing the Harmonettes of Smithers, B.C.," "Smithers Harmonettes Live in Montreal in 1967," and "Good News."

Historical accounts

Series no.: **S2**

Part of: Smithers Harmonettes fonds

Related accessions: 2009.10, 2018.2

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records, 1 DVD

Date range: 1967; 2007

Scope and content

Series includes historical overviews of the Smithers Harmonettes. These include written records: "One Little Candle: Story of the Smithers Harmonettes 1959-1967," "Smithers Glee Club & Harmonette History", and "The Harmonettes go to Montreal 'Expo 67'" (a modern transcription of a diary kept by Ben Biro in 1967); and a homemade DVD, "Smithers Harmonettes Memories 1967-2007," containing a 1967 film, the 2007 reunion concert, and a photo slideshow with overlaid audio.

Scrapbook

File no.: **F7**

Part of: Smithers Harmonettes fonds

Related accessions: 2009.10

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Date range: 1967;

Scope and content

File consists of a scrapbook of the Harmonettes trip to the Montreal Expo in 1967. Scrapbook includes newspaper clippings, C.N. train pamphlets and tickets, and Expo ephemera.