

JESUS COLLEGE ARCHIVES

JC:F2

PAPERS OF FRANK LLEWELYN HARRISON (F. 1965-70)

Frank Llewelyn Harrison (1905-87) was born in Dublin, and read music at Trinity College Dublin. From 1935-52 he held various posts in Canada and the USA, and then in 1952 he came to Oxford as a Lecturer in Music. In 1962 he was appointed a Reader in the History of Music, and in 1965 he was also elected a Senior Research Fellow of Jesus College. In 1970 he left Oxford to become Professor of Ethnomusicology at Amsterdam. He retired in 1980. More details of his academic career and his publications may be found at **JC:F2/MS3/3** below. There is an obituary for Harrison in *JCR* 1988, p. 11.

Harrison's main areas of research were medieval music and musical ethnography. He published many books and articles, but perhaps his most significant work was *Music in Medieval Britain*, first published in 1958. He also edited much music, including the Eton Choirbook.

These papers were presented to the College in July 1994 by Harrison's widow Joan Rimmer. They relate almost entirely to the special concert given in the Holywell Music Room on 30 June 1971 as part of the Quatercentenary celebrations of the College. As will be clear, Harrison played a central role in the concert, engaging musicians, and transcribing and editing much of the music performed that night.

The concert consisted mainly of a selection of pieces, largely selected by Harrison, which had links with Oxford or Jesus College, including settings of poems by Lord Herbert of Cherbury. These were performed by David Munrow, and members of the Early Music Consort of London, including Charles Brett (countertenor), Nigel Roberts (tenor), and Christopher Hogwood (keyboard instruments). The concert ended with the first performance of a specially commissioned piece, *From Stone to Thorn*, by Peter Maxwell Davies, for soprano and chamber ensemble. Maxwell Davies conducted this piece, with Mary Thomas the soprano soloist. A copy of the published score of Maxwell Davies's piece may be found at **JC:P161**.

The items in this collection were found with some short typescript notes identifying their contents, presumably prepared by Joan Rimmer.

Catalogued in October 2020.

JC:F2/C1 – CORRESPONDENCE ON THE QUATERCENTENARY CONCERT

JC:F2/C1/1

9 Sep 1970-1 Jul 1971

Frank Harrison's correspondence about arranging the Jesus Quatercentenary Concert. Much of the correspondence dates from when he had moved to Amsterdam. The correspondence includes a draft programme, dating from October/November 1970. It also shows that James Bowman had originally been engaged as countertenor in the concert. Correspondents include John Burrow (F. 1961-77), who was Secretary of the committee organising the concert, John Habakkuk (Pr. 1967-84), David Munrow, and Stephen Taylor (matr. 1969), organ scholar of the College. There are some copies of letters from Harrison to Peter Maxwell Davies, but none from him. [23 items]

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JC:F2/MSI – MANUSCRIPTS OF MUSIC PERFORMED AT THE QUATERCENTENARY CONCERT AND EDITED BY HARRISON

These documents reveal how much transcribing and editing Harrison did for the anniversary concert. He received some help in preparing performing scores of this music from Stephen Taylor (matr. 1969), then Organ Scholar of the College.

JC:F2/MSI/1 **1971**
Harrison's original manuscript, and three MS copies by Stephen Taylor, of Harrison's edition of "O bone Jesu" by Ortensio Polidori.

JC:F2/MSI/2 **1971**
Harrison's original manuscript, and two MS copies by Stephen Taylor, of Harrison's edition of "O dulce nomen Jesus" by Alessandro Grandi.

JC:F2/MSI/3 **1971**
Harrison's original manuscript, and two MS copies by Stephen Taylor, of Harrison's edition of "Alleluia: Lapis revolutus est", by Ortensio Polidori,

JC:F2/MSI/4 **1971**
Harrison's original manuscript, and three photocopies, annotated by performers, of Harrison's edition of "The Echo", words by Lord Herbert of Cherbury, and music by John Wilson.

JC:F2/MSI/5 **1971**
Harrison's original manuscript, and two photocopies, annotated by performers, of Harrison's edition of "The Thought", words by Lord Herbert of Cherbury, and music by John Wilson.

JC:F2/MSI/6 **1971**
Harrison's original manuscript, and two photocopies, annotated by performers, of Harrison's edition of "Do you not wonder?", words by an anonymous poet, and music by John Wilson.

JC:F2/MSI/7 **1971**
Harrison's original manuscript, and two photocopies, annotated by performers, of Harrison's edition of "In the merry month of May", words by Nicholas Breton, and music by John Wilson.

JC:F2/MSI/8 **1971**
Harrison's original manuscript, and one photocopy, annotated by performers, of Harrison's edition of "Cast our caps and cares away", words by Beaumont and Fletcher, and music by John Wilson.

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JC:F2/MS1/9 1971

Harrison's original manuscript, and two photocopies, annotated by performers, of Harrison's edition of "Come with our voices let us war", words by an anonymous poet, and music by John Wilson.

JC:F2/MS1/10-12 1971

Photocopies, with some annotations, of three songs by Henry Bishop, "Hope comes again", "Common sense and Genius", and "Joys of youth how fleeting", all setting words by Thomas Moore.

JC:F2/MS1/13 1971

Annotated photocopy of a tenor aria, "Thee fair Poetry", from Sir Hubert Parry's cantata *Invocation to Music: an Ode in honour of Henry Purcell*, setting words by Robert Bridges.

JC:F2/MS1/14 1971

Harrison's original manuscript, and one photocopy, annotated by performers, of Harrison's edition of "The Seagull Fair" by David Vaughan-Thomas. The words are a translation by H. Idris Bell of "Yr wylan deg", by Dafydd ap Gwilym. Vaughan-Thomas's son Spencer came up to Jesus College in 1927.

JC:F2/MS1/15 1971

Harrison's original manuscript, and two photocopies, annotated by performers, of Harrison's edition of "Woodland Voices" by David Vaughan-Thomas. The words are a translation of an extract from the anonymous poem "Llais y Adar".

JC:F2/MS2 – PRELIMINARY NOTES ABOUT PLANNING THE QUATERCENTENARY CONCERT

JC:F2/MS2/1 n.d. (1970-1)

Rough notes in Harrison's hand about planning the programme for the Jesus Quatercentenary Concert, and tracking down manuscripts, mainly in the Bodleian Library.

JC:F2/XI – CONCERT PROGRAMMES

JC:F2/X1/1-2 30 Jun 1971

Two copies of the concert programme for the Jesus Quatercentenary Concert. **XI/1** is annotated to indicate which performers participated in which pieces.

JC:F2/MS3 – OTHER MANUSCRIPT MATERIAL

JC:F2/MS3/1-2 n.d. (Jun 1970?)

Two versions of the speech given by Harrison at his farewell dinner in Jesus College, given when he was leaving to take up the Chair of Ethnomusicology at Amsterdam. The speech includes some joking references to preparations for the

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Quatercentenary Concert. One version is Harrison's own draft, and the other is a typed transcript made by Joan Rimmer.

JC:F2/MS3/3
1987**after**

CV with list of his publications for Frank Harrison, compiled after his death.

JC:F2/C2 – CORRESPONDENCE ON THE DONATION OF HARRISON'S PAPERS**JC:F2/C2/1****Jul-Aug 1994**

Correspondence between John Rimmer, widow of Frank Harrison, and Sarah Cobbold, Librarian of Jesus College, on the donation of the papers in this collection [3 items].