

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 85

**TASMANIAN MUSICAL FESTIVAL SOCIETY
COLLECTION**

Musical Events and Activities, Tasmania

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

The Tasmanian Musical Festival Society (TMFS) was formed in Launceston in 1942. The Society had four aims:

- to encourage music students and give them other opportunities of performing in public,
- show the best quality of music performers in Tasmania and thereby stimulate the ambition of other students,
- educate the public in the love of good music, especially the youth,
- raise money for war purposes during the war.

Prime movers in forming the TMFS were Dr Rudolf Werther, Mrs Elsie Tilley (nee Corrick) and Mr Douglas Caddy. The Society was most successful and during the twenty years of its existence presented fifteen different operas for seventeen seasons. Eight of these productions were grand operas, four were musical comedies and two were Gilbert and Sullivan operettas: all received high praise in newspaper reports. The National Theatre was the venue for Launceston performances.

By 1962 society had changed, demanding higher standards particularly in music, and by the time it folded that year most of the objectives of the TMFS had been achieved. Several factors led to its demise including the formation ABC symphony orchestras and concerto and vocal competitions, the National Theatre and Fine Arts Society in Hobart which provided outlets and employment for talented students leading to a drift of talent to the south, and the advent of television.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in January 2005, with additional items also donated in January 2005.

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| 1/1 | Tasmanian Musical Festival Society scrapbook (includes newspaper cuttings and photographs) | 1942-1957 |
| 1/2 | Tasmanian Musical Festival Society programs: Music of our Russian Allies, 1943; Hansel and Gretel, 1943, November 1944, December 1944 (Hobart); Il Seraglio, 1944; Der Freischutz, 1945; The Chocolate Soldier, 1945; The Maid of the Mountains, 1946; Faust, 1947; Carmen, 1948; The Bartered Bride, 1949; La Boheme, 1950; Il Trovatore, 1951; The Mikado, 1952; Iolanthe, 1953; Wildflower, 1954; The Geisha, 1957 | 1943-1957 |
| 1/3 | Peter G Webb, 'A Brief Account of the Tasmanian Musical Festival Society 1943 to 1962', manuscript | 2003 |
| 1/4 | Tasmanian Musical Festival Society, photographs of cast of Faust; one unidentified photograph | 1947 |
| 2/1 | Launceston Competitions: photographs, photocopies, items relating to Launceston Teachers College and program of 'John Stephenson, musician, afternoon of recognition' used by Peter Webb whilst writing <i>A century of the competitions: a history of the Launceston Competitions Association Inc 1902-2002</i> , Launceston, 2002 | 1903-1982 |

OTHER SOURCES

QVMAG, Community History, CHS 70

Peter G Webb, *A century of the competitions: a history of the Launceston Competitions Association Inc 1902-2002*, Launceston, 2002