

Description and Finding Aid

**TRINITY COLLEGE FACULTY OF MUSIC
F1016**

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TRINITY COLLEGE, FACULTY OF MUSIC FONDS F1016

Dates of creation

1877-1906

Extent

73 cm of textual records

4 scrapbooks

Administrative history

The University of Trinity College was founded in Toronto in 1851, receiving its royal charter in 1852. It had degree-granting rights in arts, divinity, medicine, and law. Although no Faculty of Music had been formed, on 28 April 1853 Trinity appointed George William Strathy to be professor of music. On 1 June 1853, he was granted a Bachelor of Music (B.Mus.) and in 1858 a Doctor of Music (D.Mus.). Strathy was listed in the College's calendar throughout the 1860s and early 1870s. However, he seems to have given only occasional lectures until the 1878-79 academic sessions when he formed a class in music theory.

In the April 1881 edition of the student magazine *Rouge et Noir*, students complained about the neglected state of music education at the College. Later that year there was an application from a candidate for examination in music. That same year Trinity formally created a Faculty of Music; however, its mandate was only to administer examinations.

Candidates for the B.Mus. degree had to provide evidence of five years of musical study, to compose "a song or anthem in four parts, and perform the same publicly," and to pass an examination in Theory. The doctorate required evidence of eight years of study along with the composition and performance of a part song or anthem in six or eight parts with orchestral accompaniment.

Requirements were changed in 1883 so that B.Mus. candidates had to pass three annual examinations, in harmony, counterpoint, history of music, form in composition, and instrumentation, and to compose an exercise in at least four parts with accompaniment. No arts subjects were required. Three years after obtaining a B.Mus. a student could achieve a D.Mus. Women were allowed to take the B.Mus. examination and received a certificate of passing, but were not granted degrees until 1885. Emma Stanton Mellish, later a theory teacher at the Toronto Conservatory of Music, and Helen Emma Gregory (MacGill), later a judge, were the first female graduates of Trinity. Each received a B.Mus. in 1886.

In 1885 England's *Musical Standard*, with information gleaned from a United States journal, published Trinity's curriculum and examination papers. Practising musicians, deterred from pursuing music degrees in British universities which had arts prerequisites, requested that Trinity hold music examinations in England. Since Trinity's charter allowed it 'all such and like privileges as are enjoyed by the Universities of our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,' Trinity felt entitled legally to decide in favour of simultaneous London and Toronto examinations. In the same year it rejected an application for affiliation from London's Trinity College, a music school. It appointed a former Trinity professor of mathematics, Edward K. Kendall, to serve as acting registrar in England and subsequently named as examiners for England and Canada Edward John Hopkins, William Henry

Longhurst, and Edwin Matthew Lott, all prominent English church organists on whom Trinity conferred honorary doctorates in 1886. The program began after stiffening its matriculation requirements to meet British standards. Students had to produce certificates of character, 'satisfactory evidence of attainments' in general education, and certificates showing five years of musical study and practice.

In 1889 the College's Faculty of Music became affiliated with the Toronto Conservatory of Music. This affiliation exempted conservatory students from having to take some of the faculty's examinations. In 1890 the Faculty of Music also held examinations in New York. By the end of that year the Faculty had granted 5 honorary and 9 in-course doctorates as well as 1 honorary and 86 in-course bachelor degrees, the majority to British candidates.

The intrusion of a Canadian university into Britain occasioned the publication of increasingly numerous complaints in British music journals. In 1890, 35 prominent musicians submitted to Lord Knutsford, the colonial secretary, "memorials" condemning Trinity's practice of granting *in absentia* degrees in England and stating that Trinity was lowering standards by not requiring literary examinations. As well, these musicians felt that Trinity had overstepped its powers and that its activities could open the door to bogus degrees. In addition to the memorials, music journals and newspapers took up the cause against the Trinity degrees. Trinity College's provost, C.W.E. Body, hurried to England but failed to counter the criticism and as of 1 February 1891 the University of Trinity College decided to discontinue the examinations in London and New York.

In 1900 Trinity established a board of musical studies to oversee the affairs of the faculty and to name examiners. However, when Trinity became a federated college of the University of Toronto in 1904, its Faculty of Music came to an end after having granted 161 B.Mus. degrees (including 1 honorary) and 34 D.Mus. degrees (including 6 honorary). Affiliation with the Toronto Conservatory of Music was also terminated at this time.

Scope and content

Fonds documents all aspects of Trinity College's program of granting *in absentia* music degrees in Britain from its inception in 1885 to its demise in 1891. Included in this material is correspondence with practicing musicians, with those administering the program in Britain, and with various university and government officials. There are administrative records such as calendars, degree requirements and formal examination papers. Formal and legal documents, such as the "Memorial" of 1890 and responses to it, as well as communications with university chancellors show the increasing opposition to the program. Many newspaper and journal clippings document these events.

Contains series:

1. Administrative files
2. Scrapbooks

Notes

Restrictions on access: none

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Related groups of records in different fonds

Some records relating to the Faculty of Music are found in the Administrative records of Trinity College, including scrapbooks in F1002, Office of the Provost: Scrapbook, TC Newspaper Cuttings, 1890, Box 20.

Provenance access points

Trinity College, Faculty of Music, 1885-1891

SERIES 1: ADMINISTRATIVE FILES

Dates of creation: 1877-1906

Extent: 73 cm of textual records

Scope and content: Series consists of correspondence with musicians, and with various university and government officials throughout the program. There are administrative records such as calendars, degree requirements, formal examination papers, instructions to examiners and matriculants. As well, with the increasing opposition to the program, there are formal and legal documents, and newspaper and journal clippings, recording these events. See list of numbered correspondence from 1 to 28 in file 1-2.

Location / File Listing

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX/ FILE #
Toronto Conservatory of Music Calendar	1900	1901	Calendar, Fourteenth Annual: Toronto Conservatory of Music, in affiliation with the University of Toronto and Trinity University, 1900-1901; Examination questions for B.Mus. degree, 10 April 1890.	1-1
Numbered correspondence, 2-4	1885	1890	Correspondence from various sources concerning the establishment of the University of Trinity College Faculty of Music, honorary degrees, and examinations. Some letters advise against becoming involved with Trinity College (London). Included is a list of numbered correspondence from 1-28.	1-2
Numbered correspondence, 5-13	1885	[1891?]	Correspondence and other documents concerning the proposed affiliation with Trinity College (London). Many warnings against the proposal, including "The English Memorial / Musical Degrees /	1-3 Map Cabinet

			Agitation in England against Trinity University, Toronto" [1890?]; Draft version of circulars to vice chancellors of English universities.	4/1
Numbered correspondence, 14-18	1888	[1891?]	Statement of the position of Trinity University concerning musical degrees, 1888; Arguments for the degrees, degree requirements for English universities; Local examination paper from the Musical University of England, 1890; Letter to the <i>Globe</i> (Toronto) concerning the dispute, n.d.	1-4
Numbered correspondence, 19-22	1885	1888	Reports from E.K. Kendall showing various lists of candidates, passes and failures.	1-5
Numbered correspondence, 23-27	1887	1890	List of recipients of the Memorial 1890; List of subscribers to Mr. Coles' "Academical Exercise"; Letter re the Memorial and music degrees; Telegrams to and from England 1890; Extracts from charters.	1-6
Dr [E.K.] Kendall's correspondence (1 of 2 files)	1889	1890	Correspondence with various universities and others concerning the deputation against Trinity granting <i>in absentia</i> music degrees in Britain; Correspondence with Sir Charles Tupper, high commissioner of Canada; Lists of graduates and failures.	1-7
Dr [E.K.] Kendall's correspondence (2 of 2 files)	1890	1891	Correspondence to the solicitors of <i>The Times</i> defending Trinity's position and advising how the matter is being handled; Correspondence from Vice Chancellor C.W.E. Body to various university publications; article in the <i>Dominion Musical Journal</i> , vol. 1(6), December 1891, giving reasons for the establishment of the <i>in absentia</i> degrees; <i>Musical News</i> , 7 August 1891, in which Sir John Stainer states that various English universities no longer require matriculants in music to pass exams in unrelated subjects.	1-8
Lists	[188-?]	[189-?]	Miscellaneous lists, mostly unidentified,	1-9

including names and addresses.

Correspondence and other documents	[188-?]	[189-?]	Correspondence, including Letter to the Editor from C.W.E. Body, about the music degrees; Action against "Outlined plan of Education," Toronto Conservatory of Music, n.d.	1-10
Examinations	1890	1906	Examinations including class lists for final examinations; Examination questions including: University of Trinity College, Toronto, April 1890, and handwritten examination questions 1906.	1-11
Legal matters	1877	1891	"Statement on the position of Trinity University in regard to the musical degrees ... 1890" [handwritten on letterhead of The Senate, Canada]; Degree requirements for University of Cambridge 1885; "Evidence ... in favour of Musical Degrees in the University of Edinburgh," 1 December 1877; Trinity University, Statement on Musical Degrees in England [1890]; Handwritten resolution [from a Trinity College Corporation meeting] not to receive any matriculants in England after 1 February 1891 [See also file 1-13 for article in <i>Musical Standard</i>].	1-12
Journal articles and clippings	1886	1891	"Trinity College, Toronto, and its Musical Degrees," <i>Canadian Gazette</i> (London), 20 February 1890, p. 493, and Letter to the editor from the Vice Chancellor of Trinity University; Clippings from musical journals such as <i>Musical Opinion & Music Trade Review</i> and <i>Musical Society</i> ; <i>Musical Standard</i> , p. 53, 17 January 1891, confirms that there will no longer be any matriculants in England after 1 February 1891 (See file 1-12 for handwritten resolution).	1-13
Memorials Presented to Lord Knutsford	1890	1890	Memorial and Supplement of the University of Trinity College, Toronto, with Appendices including Royal Charters, Requirements and Examinations for Degrees, etc., 1890,	1-14

published booklet, 2 copies.

Folder	1890	1891	Journal clippings; Circulars to Vice Chancellors of English Universities defending its position [see file 1-3 for draft version]; Particulars of requirements and examinations, Mus.Bac. and Mus.Doc., April 1890.	Map cabinet 4/1
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SERIES 2: SCRAPBOOKS

Dates of creation: 1885-1892

Extent: 4 scrapbooks

Scope and content: Series consists of scrapbooks with material covering all aspects of this program. These scrapbooks contain documents from the program's early stages introducing the University of Trinity College and its music degree program to prospective students in Britain. Also included are degree requirements, formal examination papers, and instructions to examiners and matriculants. In addition to these internal records, there are many documents, including correspondence, newspaper and journal clippings, showing the growing opposition to the program in Britain.

Location / File Listing

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX/ FILE #
Scrapbook	1885	1887	Documents pasted into scrapbooks from the initiation of the program ["First Examination in Music, 1 October 1885"] to its demise. Includes material such as degree requirements, examination questions, newspaper and journal clippings, May 1885 to October 1887.	Box 2
Scrapbook	1887	1890	As above, November 1887 to April 1890.	Box 3
Scrapbook	1890	1892	As above, July 1890 to March 1892.	Box 4
Scrapbook	1892	1892	As above, March to May 1892.	Box 5