

# **Guide to the Musical Society of London Collection, 1858-1864**

## **Drexel 663**

Music Division  
The New York Public Library Library for the Performing Arts

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### **Descriptive Summary**

<b>Title:</b>	Musical Society of London Collection
<b>Collection ID:</b>	Drexel 663
<b>Creator:</b>	Edward .F. Rimbault
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Volume
<b>Repository:</b>	Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

### **Abstract**

The Musical Society of London Collection consists primarily of printed materials related to the Society's activities from 1858-1864, as collected by member Edward .F. Rimbault.

### **Administrative Information**

#### **Provenance**

The collection was part of the library of Edward .F. Rimbault, which was purchased by Joseph W. Drexel. Upon his death it was donated to the Lenox Library, which was a founding collection of the New York Public Library.

#### **Access**

Collection is open to the public.

#### **Restrictions on use**

For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Music Division, The New York Library for the Performing Arts.

#### **Preferred citation**

Musical Society of London Collection, Drexel 663, Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

### Biographical Note

The Musical Society of London (1858-1867) was formed by former members of the New Philharmonic Society. Their objective was the “advancement of music in England” and they held orchestral, choral, and chamber music concerts and conversazione, sponsored composition competitions, and operated a small music library open to fellows and associates of the society.

The Society was made up of professional and amateur musicians from throughout United Kingdom, including women (admitted only as associates of the Society). Many of the Society’s founding members were composers, performers, and scholars, including Charles Salaman, Augustine Sargood, Charles E. Horsely, W. Vincent Wallace, George A. Macfarren, Henry Smart, Alfred Mellon, and Edward F. Rimbault. Charles Salaman, who served as secretary of the Society from its founding until 1865, was a noted lecturer, pianist and composer and was involved in forming the Musical Association. Also noteworthy among the founding members was George A. Macfarren, who was one of the most prolific composers of the nineteenth century, writing several operas, cantatas, and symphonies, and W. Vincent Wallace, composer of the opera *Maritana*.

While normal membership was limited to those residing in the UK, the council did nominate prominent composers from the Continent for honorary fellowships to the Society. Auber, Berlioz, Meyerbeer, Rossini, and Spohr were among those that received the honor, and their works, as well as the works of their British colleagues, were frequently performed by the Society.

Under the main objective of the Society, concerts and conversazione included a mixture of works from Classical repertoire, “ancient” works (usually meaning the Renaissance in England), and works by contemporary composers. Arthur Sullivan (who became a fellow in 1863) had the debut of his *Tempest Music* at a Society concert in 1862. The Society also debuted several other works, including those of Macfarren and Salaman.

While there was concern at the Society’s inception that London did not need a second large music organization, the Society was able to prove its worth through several seasons, and at one time had close to 1,500 members. However, by April 1867, the Society lacked funds to continue its season and it was forced to suspend operations. The final concert of the Society was 20 March 1867 and included Beethoven’s *Choral Fantasia* with Clara Schumann on piano.

Edward Francis Rimbault (1816-1876) was a musicologist, composer, and organist, best known for his editions of music by English Renaissance and Baroque composers. He received a doctorate from Göttingen University, and was offered (but declined) a position at Harvard University. He was a founding member of the Music Antiquarian Society and the Percy Society, in addition to being a founding member of the Musical Society of London. Rimbault was also a member of the Handel Society, editing several volumes of Handel’s works for publication.

From 1862-1863 he served as the librarian of the Musical Society of London, after the departure of the Society's first librarian, Charles E. Horsley.

**Sources:**

- "[Formation of the Musical Society of London. Strictures on the content of comedies]." *The Musical World* 36, no. 51 (December 18, 1858): 808-810.
- Bashford, Christina. "Salaman, Charles." *Grove Music Online*.  
<http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/subscriber/article/grove/music/24355>.  
(accessed September 16, 2010).
- Grove, Sir George, John Alexander Fuller-Maitland, and Adela Harriet Sophia (Bagot) Wodehouse. "Musical Society of London." In *A Dictionary of Music and Musicians (A.D. 1450-1880) by Eminent Writers, English and Foreign*, 2:431-432. London: Macmillan, 1880.
- Husk, W.H., and Nicholas Temperley. "Rimbault, Edward." *Grove Music Online*.  
<http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/subscriber/article/grove/music/23477>.  
(accessed September 16, 2010).
- "Music." *The London Review of Politics, Society, Literature, Art, & Science*, January 31, 1863.
- "Musical Society of London [Annual meeting]." *The Musical World* 38, no. 6 (February 11, 1860): 88-89.
- Temperley, Nicholas. "Macfarren, Sir George." *Grove Music Online*.  
<http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/subscriber/article/grove/music/17324>.  
(accessed September 16, 2010).
- Temperley, Nicholas, Philip Olleson, Roger Bowers, H. Diack Johnstone, Richard Rastall, Peter Holman, Marie Axton, et al. "London (i)." *Grove Music Online*.  
<http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/subscriber/article/grove/music/16904pg6>.  
(accessed September 16, 2010).
- Temperley, Nicholas. "Wallace, Vincent." *Grove Music Online*.  
<http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/subscriber/article/grove/music/29838>.  
(accessed September 16, 2010).

### **Scope and Content**

The collection consists largely of printed matter distributed by the Society from 1858-1864, as collected by founding member and fellow, Edward F. Rimbault. The dates of the materials begin just before the establishment of the Society itself, when meetings were seen as an attempt to reorganize the New Philharmonic Society. The collection contains notices and invitations to meetings and rehearsals, printed announcements advertising the Society and their activities, published membership lists, catalogs of the library collection, concert and conversazione programs, annual reports, and handwritten correspondence from fellow members Charles Salaman and Charles E. Horsely.

Due to the bound nature of the collection, there is only one series of materials, but the series includes many different types of materials. These materials include:

- Printed correspondence sent by the Society to its membership, including invitations to meetings and rehearsals, Society election information, and information relating to the payment of dues and the financial status of the Society.
- Printed announcements and other materials advertising the Society and its events.
- Membership information, including lists of members.
- Annual reports and bylaws of the Society.
- Printed catalogs of the library holdings.
- Programs from events held by the Society, including concerts, composition trials, and conversazione, which were events where members presented papers on musical topics and exhibited musical artifacts.
- Handwritten correspondence and miscellaneous materials related to the Society.

### **Arrangement**

The materials in this collection are in a fixed arrangement, in a single bound volume. It is unknown who placed the collection in its present order.

### **Series Information**

There is only one series in the collection, which due to its bound nature, is a mixture of several different types of materials.

## Collection List

Materials are listed in the order in which they appear in the volume. The volume is unpaginated.

Catalogue of the Library of the Musical Society Of London, 1863.

Unidentified drawing in pen.

Musical Society of London General Laws.

Printed correspondence and synopsis of general laws, 13 Feb 1858 (2 leaves).

Meeting invitation, 27 Feb 1858.

Printed correspondence, 16 Mar 1858.

Printed correspondence and synopsis of general laws, 23 Apr 1858 (3 leaves).

Correspondence from C.E. Horsley, 3 Apr 1858.

Printed list of board and members, Nov 1858 (3 leaves).

Printed list of board and members, Nov 1858 (2 leaves).

Printed list of fellows, "Corrected list", Undated (2 leaves).

Printed correspondence and extract from general laws, 5 May 1858 (2 leaves).

Printed correspondence, list of board and members, and synopsis of general laws, 5 May 1858 (2 leaves).

Printed correspondence and extract from general laws, 5 May 1858 (2 leaves).

Printed invitation to attend 26 May 1858 Conversazione, 23 May 1859.

Leaflet advertising the Musical Society Of London, Nov 1858.

Printed correspondence proposing "The Royal Musical Institution of Great Britain", 1 Jun 1840 (2 leaves).

Printed correspondence, 11 Jun 1858.

Printed correspondence, list of members, and election ballot, 22 Jun 1858 (3 leaves).

Printed correspondence and revised election ballot, 28 Jun 1858 (2 leaves).

Printed correspondence with election results and invitation to council meeting, 3 and 16 Jul 1858.

Printed invitations to meetings of fellows, 24 and 29 Jul 1858.

Printed list of board and members, 20 Jan 1858 (2 leaves).

Leaflet advertising the Musical Society Of London, Nov 1858.

Printed invitation to council meeting, 12 Jul 1858.

Correspondence from C. Salaman, 6 Aug (?) 1858.

Printed invitations to council meeting and to pay dues, 6 and 17 Sep 1858.

Printed invitation to attend meeting of fellows and correspondence from C. Salaman, 17 and 23 Sep 1858 .

Leaflet advertising the Musical Society Of London, Mar 1859.

Printed invitation to attend meeting of fellows, 12 Nov 1858.

Leaflet about the Musical Society Of London, Jul 1858.

Leaflet about the Musical Society Of London, Jan 1859.

Printed invitation for choral practice, 2 Dec 1858.

Printed invitation to pay dues, 22 Jan 1858.

Program for Conversazione, 26 May 1859 (Leaflet).

Printed invitation for choral practice, 2 Dec 1858.

Program for Conversazione, 15 Dec 1858.

Printed list of members, Mar 1859.

Leaflet about Musical Society of London with library rules, Mar 1859.

Printed invitation to pay dues and subscriber nomination form, 22 Jan 1859/Undated.

Printed invitations to attend meeting of fellows, 26 Feb and 29 Apr 1859.

Printed invitation to attend society meeting, 18 Oct 1859.

[Blank leaf].

Printed sheet about Musical Society Of London, 1 Dec 1859.

Yearly schedule for Musical Society Of London, 1860 season.

Nomination ballot for society admission, Undated.

Concert programs for 26 Jan and 23 Feb 1859 (3 leaves).

Announcement for second Conversazione of 1860, 13 Jun 1860.

Printed list of members, Mar 1859 (leaflet).

Printed list of board and members, 20 Jan 1859 (leaflet).

Leaflet with information about Musical Society Of London, Jan 1859.

Printed correspondence and society balance sheet, 26 Jan 1859 (2 leaves).

Printed invitation for choral practice and meeting of fellows, 4/5 Jan 1859.

Printed correspondence (2 sheets), 26 Jan 1859.

Concert programs for 30 Mar and 11 May 1859 (4 leaves).

Printed information about Musical Society Of London, 1 Dec 1859.

Yearly schedule for Musical Society Of London, 1860 season.

Printed list of members, 1 Dec 1859 (2 leaves, folded).

Printed invitation for meeting of fellows, 25 Jan 1859.

Printed invitation for meeting of fellows and balance sheet, 25 Jan 1859.

Concert program, 21 Mar 1860 (leaflet).

Concert program, 25 Apr 1860 (leaflet).

Concert program, 13 Jun 1860 .

Printed correspondence and balance sheet, 25 Jan 1860 (2 leaves).



Printed invitation to meeting of fellows, 26 Apr 1860.

Annual report and list of members, 1860.

Leaflet about Musical Society of London third season, Nov 1860.

Conversazione program, 18 Jan 1860 (leaflet).

Conversazione program, 4 July 1860 (leaflet).

Yearly schedule for Musical Society Of London, 1861 season.

Concert program, 27 Feb 1861 (leaflet).

Concert program, 10 Apr 1861 (leaflet).

Printed correspondence and balance sheet, 30 Jan 1861 (3 leaves).

Concert program, 8 May 1861 (leaflet).

Concert program, 5 Jun 1861 (leaflet).

Leaflet about Musical Society of London fourth season, Nov 1861.

Conversazione program, 23 Jan 1861 (leaflet).

Conversazione program, 3 Jul 1861 (pamphlet, 4 leaves).

Correspondence from C. Salaman, 17 Jul 1861.

Programs from chamber music trials, 20 Mar and 22 May, 1861.

Printed invitation to attend rehearsal, 22 Apr 1861.

Leaflet about Musical Society of London fourth season, 1862.

Leaflet about Musical Society of London fourth season, 1 Nov 1861.

Leaflet about Musical Society of London fourth season, 1 Nov 1861.

Annual report, 1861.

Program for chamber music trials, 26 Feb 1862.

Printed notice for meeting of fellows, Mar 1862.

Program for chamber music trials, 12 Nov 1862.

Printed correspondence, 28 Jan 1862.

Printed notice regarding choral practice, 24 Feb 1862.

Correspondence from C. Salaman, 7 Mar 1862.

Election ballot for fellows, 5 Feb 1862.

Printed correspondence, 28 Jan 1862.

Printed correspondence and balance sheet, 28 Jan 1862 (2 leaves).

Printed notice for 29 Jan 1862 *Conversazione*, 1 Jan 1862.

Concert program, 12 Mar 1862 (leaflet).

Yearly schedule for Musical Society of London fifth season, 1863 (annotated).

Printed correspondence, 1 Nov 1862.

Concert program, 30 Apr 1862 (annotated).

Concert program, 30 Apr 1862 (annotated).

Concert program, 21 May 1862 (leaflet).

Concert program, 11 Jun 1862 .

Printed notice for 2 July *Conversazione*, 11 June 1862.

*Conversazione* program, 29 Jan 1862 (pamphlet, 4 leaves).

*Conversazione* program, 2 July 1862 (pamphlet, 4 leaves).

Printed correspondence, 19 Nov 1862.

Printed correspondence soliciting library donations, 1 Nov 1862.

Leaflet about Musical Society of London fifth season, 1 Nov 1862.

Annual report, 1862.

Printed correspondence, 25 Jan 1863.

Printed correspondence and balance sheet, 26 Jan 1863 (2 leaves).

Concert program, 28 Jan 1863 (leaflet).

Concert program, 25 Mar 1863 (leaflet).

Concert program, 22 Apr 1863 (leaflet).

Concert program for orchestral music trials, 25 Feb 1863.

Printed correspondence, 3 Mar 1863.

Printed notice, 20 Feb 1863 (leaflet, one leaf blank).

Election ballot for fellows, 4 Feb 1863.

Printed correspondence, 26 Jan 1863.

Conversazione program, 24 June 1863 (pamphlet, 4 leaves).

Annual report, laws, list of members, and library catalogue, 1863 (split onto 6 stubs).

Election ballot for fellows, 3 Feb 1864.

Concert (Soirée) program, 17 Feb 1864.

Concert program for orchestral music trials, 24 Feb 1864.

Concert program for orchestral music trials, 18 May 1864.

Concert program, 27 Jan 1864 (leaflet).

Concert program, 16 Mar 1864 (leaflet).

Concert program, 20 Apr 1864 (leaflet).

Concert program, 15 Jun 1864 (leaflet).