

Friends of Music - Terms of Reference

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Statement from Alan Barthel by email

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It was during Alan' tenure as Director of Music that Friends of Music was created.

Hi Merran,

Sorry that I've been so slow in getting back to you about the origins of the Friends of Music. Working with the worship and music committees we made a proposal through the elders to the finance committee that would allow us to solicit funds outside of the church budget to underwrite a music and spiritual outreach to the greater London community through a series of Worship Workshops and Sacred Music Concerts in 1978. Our plan was to have a three of four major concerts during the year, with the spring concert part of a 3 day event on some aspect of worship. In addition to those events the Friends of Music also underwrote part of the expenses of Lenten and Advent noon time concerts in conjunction with the UCW (dear Jean Comfort worked so hard at this) who for a small fee provided a soup, sandwich and dessert luncheon. For the first few years the Friends of Music also sponsored several programs which we entitled "Music for a Summer Evening". As I recall when Clark Wilson retired as Bass soloist in late 1978 as part of our recognition of him, donations were made to the Friends of Music in his honour and for the first year following his retirement, the FoM underwrote half of the cost of the new bass soloist (Ross Dodington) in Clark's honour. When Clark died, his wife Cammy asked that donations in his memory be made to the Friends of Music.

Monies from the FoM were also used to help stimulate the students at FSA who were instrumentalists (like Jeff Nuttal) so that we were able to bring in professional musicians to build on the wonderful group of instrumentals who were members and or children of members of FSA.

Alan

Statement from Paul Merritt (which was left with Terry Head)

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"Before 1977 at FSA, all of the costs of musical concerts performed by FSA musical groups were underwritten by the church. Concerts and musical performances rarely made money because of the costs involved and the wish to keep ticket prices affordable. In the late 1970s, the church decided that it no longer wanted to cover these annual concert losses. To address this problem, the church set up [together with Alan Barthel, Director of Music at the time] the Friends of Music Fund as a mechanism to fund the annual Concert Series through donations

by interested individuals. Its mandate was purposefully to establish a fund that was completely separate from the church's operating budget. The church made it clear that the Concert Series was then to either "sink or swim" on its own financial basis."

"The Friends of Music Fund is under the auspices of the Music Committee who oversee all aspects of the fund and Concert Series. In the set up of the Friends of Music Fund, the church established that an appeal for contributions to the fund could occur only once a year in the Lenten issue of the church newsletter (now Tidings). As well, the following appears on the programs for each concert in the Concert Series:

These concerts are made possible through generous donations of Friends of Music at First-St. Andrew's. To become a Friend of Music, please send a cheque payable to First-St. Andrew's United Church (Friends of Music). Your gifts are tax deductible.

No other appeals for contributions or fundraising occurs for the Friends of Music Fund."

"In September each year, the Music Committee assesses the Friends of Music Fund to determine what percentage will be donated to the church in the following calendar year."