

PAPERS OF THE YORK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
1898-1937

(YSO)

YSO 1 COMMITTEE PAPERS

YSO 1/1	Committee Administration
YSO 1/2	Society Membership
YSO 1/3	Finance

YSO 2 PUBLICITY MATERIAL

YSO 2/1	Material commissioned by the YSO
YSO 2/2	External publicity

The York Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1898 by then York Minster organist, T. Tertius Noble, who conducted and composed for the orchestra until his departure in 1913 to take up a post in New York. The amateur orchestra met weekly and originally performed two concerts per year, as well as further special concerts, until the start of the First World War. Though plans were initially made to continue, and a memorial service at York Minster featured a performance by orchestra of Brahms's German *Requiem*, the orchestra was forced to suspend its programme during the war.

The orchestra was revived in 1919 and a number of concerts were given during the interwar period, but these were occasional rather than regular, such as to celebrate the visit of the Prince of Wales to York in 1933. After the Second World War, the YSO was once more resurrected, and continues to this day in York as an amateur orchestra, currently performing three concerts annually.

This collection represents the archive of the York Symphony Orchestra from its inception in 1898 to the start of the Second World War. The collection contains Committee papers such as minutes, membership details, correspondence and accounts, alongside original publicity material in the form of concert programmes and prospectuses. There are two original group photographs of the orchestra dating from 1906 and 1913 as well as a range of newspaper cuttings including adverts, reviews and musical articles of national and local interest from the period 1898 to 1935.

Material dating from the 1940s to the present day remains in the care of the Orchestra.

Records are open to the public, subject to the overriding provisions of relevant legislation, including the Data Protection Act 1998.

In the interests of preservation, surrogates have been made of newspaper material in the collection and will be produced for researchers in place of the originals.

YSO 1

COMMITTEE PAPERS

YSO 1/1

Committee Administration

YSO 1/1/1

Committee meetings

YSO 1/1/1/1

Minute book, with loose sheet of minutes for May 1914

1910-1914

YSO 1/1/1/2

Notes on the 1913-1914 notes on the season including members'

1913-1914

instruments, music timings, some addresses of members, a committee list and matters requiring attention

YSO 1/1/1/3

Draft of Annual Report, typescript with manuscript notes, and AGM report (*two items*)

1913-1914

YSO 1/1/1/4

Typescript sheet of minutes

15 October 1915

YSO 1/1/1/5

Minute book

1915-1939

YSO 1/1/1/6

Statement read to General Meeting concerning finance

27 October 1919

YSO 1/1/1/7

Agenda for Committee meeting

November 1919

YSO 1/1/1/8

Correspondence apologising for absences from meetings (*six items*)

1919-1921

YSO 1/1/2

Correspondence of Committee members

YSO 1/1/2/1

Letter to T. T. Noble from the composer Edward German expressing his thanks

30 Nov 1903

YSO 1/1/2/2

Circular from Committee to members inviting subscriptions for T. T. Noble's leaving fund

27 February 1913

YSO 1/1/2/3

Correspondence of Secretary including issues regarding criticism of conductor and the orchestra, and possible amalgamation with York Music Society (*eleven letters*)

1913-1915

YSO 1/1/2/4

Correspondence of Secretary, partly concerning the orchestral programme (*three letters*)

1919-1921

YSO 1/1/3

Committee papers concerning the restarting of the orchestra after the First World War

YSO 1/1/3/1

Printed letters from Committee to old members concerning revival of orchestra, detailing a General Meeting (*two items*)

26 July 1919,
18 October 1919

YSO 1/1/3/2	List of old and new members willing to join the reformed orchestra and their instruments	27 October 1919
YSO 1/1/3/3	Correspondence with professionals willing to be engaged by orchestra (<i>seven letters</i>)	1919
YSO 1/1/3/4	Correspondence of acting Secretary with various old and new supporters regarding resuscitation of orchestra, including donations and appointment of conductor (<i>twelve letters</i>)	1919
YSO 1/1/3/5	Blank sample of new letterhead	c.1919

YSO 1/2 Society Membership

YSO 1/2/1	Committee membership	
YSO 1/2/1/1	Correspondence to members regarding farewell gifts for Secretary and for T. Tertius Noble (<i>two letters</i>)	6 February 1911, 17 February 1913
YSO 1/2/1/2	Correspondence and note regarding invitations to and resignations from the Committee (<i>five items</i>)	April-May 1914, 27 October 1919
YSO 1/2/1/3	Correspondence regarding invitation to and resignation from the post of Secretary (<i>three letters</i>)	13 July 1914, 11 August 1914
YSO 1/2/1/4	Correspondence regarding invitations to and resignation from the post of Treasurer (<i>four letters</i>)	October 1919- September 1921
YSO 1/2/2	Professional appointments <i>see also YSO 1/1/3/3</i>	
YSO 1/2/2/1	Letter of resignation of leader-conductor due to new appointment in Berlin, which was subsequently prevented by the outbreak of war	13 July 1914
YSO 1/2/2/2	Correspondence negotiating conductorship of the reformed orchestra (<i>twelve letters</i>)	July-October 1919
YSO 1/2/2/3	Correspondence regarding resignation of conductor and appointment of successor (<i>three letters</i>)	August-September 1921
YSO 1/2/2/4	Correspondence regarding resignation of assistant conductor and appointment of successor (<i>three letters</i>)	July 1926

YSO 1/2/3	Rehearsals and concert dates	
YSO 1/2/3/1	Printed notices of rehearsals	September 1903, September 1905 December 1912
YSO 1/2/3/2	Letter to members from T. T. Noble regarding forthcoming rehearsal	
YSO 1/2/3/3	Draft of circular asking members for indication of availability due to onset of war, and subsequent circular of wartime arrangements (<i>two items</i>)	September 1914, 9 October 1914
YSO 1/2/3/4	Printed rehearsal card in envelope	October 1921
YSO 1/2/3/5	Card sent to members confirming performance of the YSO during visit of Prince of Wales	13 December 1933
YSO 1/2/4	Society Rules	
YSO 1/2/4/1	Notice of fines for failing to return parts of music	c. 1904
YSO 1/2/4/2	Rule cards (<i>three cards</i>)	1912-c.1914
YSO 1/2/5	Membership details	
YSO 1/2/5/1	List of names and address of playing members	1911-1912
YSO 1/2/5/2	List of names and addresses of members plus instrument played	1919-1920
YSO 1/2/5/3	Letters of enquiry regarding membership (<i>two items</i>)	31 Oct 1919, 26 September 1921
YSO 1/2/6	Photographs	
YSO 1/2/6/1	Large group photograph of orchestra	February 1906
YSO 1/2/6/2	Large group photograph of orchestra with names individually signed beneath, labelled "Mr Tertius Noble's farewell"	c. 1913
YSO 1/3	Finance	
YSO 1/3/1	Seasonal accounts	
YSO 1/3/1/1	Balance sheets for 1898, 1899, 1901-1902, 1906-1907 and 1909-1910 (<i>five items</i>)	1898-1910
YSO 1/3/1/2	Financial statement	1920
YSO 1/3/1/3	Statements of accounts for seasons; 1922-1923, 1923-1924 and 1925-1926, with concert details (<i>three items</i>)	1923-1926

YSO 1/3/2	Accounts for specific concerts	
YSO 1/3/2/1	Balance sheets for 1st-6th concerts and comparative breakdown of expenses and receipts for first five concerts (<i>seven items</i>)	1899-1902
YSO 1/3/2/2	Balance sheet and annual report for 1914-1915 with breakdown for Brahms " <i>Requiem</i> " memorial service concert	1915
YSO 1/3/2/3	Statement of accounts for 30th concert and balance sheets for 31st and 32nd concerts	1923-1924
YSO 1/3/2/4	Balance sheet for a dance held at the Assembly rooms	1938
YSO 1/3/3	Subscriptions and ticket sales	
YSO 1/3/3/1	Printed invitation to become a subscriber to the orchestra's concerts with reply slip, plus a printed reminder of subscriptions and invitation to join (<i>two items</i>)	c.1907-1909
YSO 1/3/3/2	Circular requesting payment of Honourable Member's subscription, printed form to join subscription scheme, and note of subscribers and ticket sales (<i>three items</i>)	25 January 1912-1914
YSO 1/3/3/3	Circular from Secretary to assess the subscription base of other similar musical societies, with three responses (<i>four items</i>)	23 September 1913
YSO 1/3/3/4	Letter from stationer detailing numbers of printed tickets sent for concert, with annotated notes of ticket sales on the door	25 November 1913
YSO 1/3/3/5	Note requesting special donations for Brahms's <i>Requiem</i> memorial service whilst normal programme is on hold due to war	1914
YSO 1/3/4	Hiring rehearsal space	
YSO 1/3/4/1	Correspondence assessing the capacity of the Exhibition hall as a venue (<i>two items</i>)	1914
YSO 1/3/4/2	Correspondence surrounding attempts to secure rehearsal space after the First World War (<i>five letters</i>)	1919

YSO 1/3/5	Financial memos and receipts	
YSO 1/3/5/1	Memo regarding donation to the Minster Organ Fund	1900
YSO 1/3/5/2	Receipt of payment for photograph, receipt of payment for business training and receipt for balance of funds following Brahm's <i>Requiem</i> service (<i>three items</i>)	1914
YSO 1/3/5/3	Receipt from caretaker for payment, note regarding society accounts and a note regarding the loan of the orchestra's drums	5 December 1921- 8 December 1922

YSO 2

PUBLICITY MATERIAL

YSO 2/1	Material commissioned by the YSO	
YSO 2/1/1	Programmes of regular concerts <i>Mostly originals, some reproductions. Series includes duplicates where copies differ, i.e annotations</i>	
YSO 2/1/1/1	Programmes of concerts 1-5 (<i>five items</i>)	1899-1902
YSO 2/1/1/2	Programmes of concerts 6-10 (<i>six items</i>)	1902-1904
YSO 2/1/1/3	Programmes of concerts 11-15 (<i>six items</i>)	1905-1907
YSO 2/1/1/4	Programmes of concerts 16-20 (<i>six items</i>)	1908-1910
YSO 2/1/1/5	Programmes of concerts 21-25 (<i>six items</i>)	1910-1912
YSO 2/1/1/6	Programmes of concerts 26-28, with seasonal programme for 1913-1914 (<i>five items</i>) <i>No 26 annotated "Mr Noble's last concert"</i> <i>NB. The 28th concert planned for 1914 was not performed</i>	1913-1914
YSO 2/1/1/7	Programme of the actual 28th concert	1922
YSO 2/1/1/8	Seasonal and concert programmes (<i>seven items</i>)	1923-1926

YSO 2/1/2	Programmes of special and occasional concerts	
YSO 2/1/2/1	Programmes from the first and second Recitations by the Rev Canon Fleming, at which the YSO performed (<i>two items</i>)	5 October 1905, 9 October 1906
YSO 2/1/2/2	Programme for concert in aid of Barnados	28 November 1906
YSO 2/1/2/3	Photocopy of programme for "Miscellaneous concert"	14 December 1909
YSO 2/1/2/4	Programme, order of service and two tickets for the "Brahm's Requiem" memorial service at York Minister (<i>four items</i>)	15 December 1914
YSO 2/1/2/5	Programme of a Municipal Band performance	5 November 1933
YSO 2/1/2/6	Programmes for two orchestral concerts at New Earswick and a festival of Christmas carols (<i>three items</i>)	31 January 1937 - 26 December 1937
YSO 2/1/3	Handbills	
YSO 2/1/3/1	Handbills for regular concerts number 6, 8-9, 11-13, 17- 22 (<i>twelve items</i>)	1902-1912
YSO 2/1/3/2	Handbill for Recitations by the Rev Canon Fleming	9 October 1906
YSO 2/1/3/3	Publicity booklet for vocalist Caroline Hatchard	November 1913
YSO 2/1/4	Prospectuses	
YSO 2/1/4/1	Correspondence regarding publicity photos (<i>four items</i>)	1911, 1913
YSO 2/1/4/2	Four prospectuses with some annotation (<i>five items</i>)	c.1911-1913
YSO 2/1/5	Newspaper adverts	
YSO 2/1/5/1	Notices and adverts from various Yorkshire newspapers (<i>nine items</i>)	1913
YSO 2/1/5/2	Notices and adverts from various Yorkshire newspapers (<i>twelve items</i>)	1914

YSO 2/2**External Publicity****YSO 2/2/1****Newspaper reviews of regular concerts***Cuttings taken from various Yorkshire and musical publications*

YSO 2/2/1/1	Newspaper reviews (<i>seven items</i>)	1899
YSO 2/2/1/2	Newspaper reviews (<i>seven items</i>)	1900
YSO 2/2/1/3	Newspaper reviews (<i>two items</i>)	1901
YSO 2/2/1/4	Newspaper reviews (<i>four items</i>)	1902
YSO 2/2/1/5	Newspaper reviews (<i>five items</i>)	1903
YSO 2/2/1/6	Newspaper reviews (<i>six items</i>)	1904
YSO 2/2/1/7	Newspaper reviews (<i>seven items</i>)	1905
YSO 2/2/1/8	Newspaper reviews (<i>five items</i>)	1906
YSO 2/2/1/9	Newspaper reviews (<i>seven items</i>)	1907
YSO 2/2/1/10	Newspaper reviews (<i>five items</i>)	1908
YSO 2/2/1/11	Newspaper reviews (<i>five items</i>)	1909
YSO 2/2/1/12	Newspaper reviews (<i>four items</i>)	1910
YSO 2/2/1/13	Newspaper reviews (<i>two items</i>)	c. 1911
YSO 2/2/1/14	Newspaper reviews (<i>six items</i>)	1913
YSO 2/2/1/15	Newspaper reviews (<i>three items</i>)	1914
YSO 2/2/1/16	Newspaper reviews (<i>six items</i>)	1923-1926

YSO 2/2/2**Newspaper reports of special and occasional concerts**

YSO 2/2/2/1	Detailed newspaper reviews of the Military Commemoration service held at York Minister in April 1900, at which the YSO performed. (<i>five items</i>)	April 1900
YSO 2/2/2/2	Review of North Eastern Choirs festival at which members of the YSO performed	1900
YSO 2/2/2/3	Reviews of two Recitations by the Rev. Canon Fleming at which the YSO performed, and review of concert in aid of Barnados (<i>three items</i>)	1905-1906
YSO 2/2/2/4	Reports of T. Tertius Noble's last concert as conductor, and his farewell presentation of gifts at a rehearsal (<i>three items</i>)	1913
YSO 2/2/2/5	Reviews of Memorial Service in York Minister, with the YSO performing Brahms's "German Requiem" (<i>nine items</i>)	1914
YSO 2/2/2/6	Review of concert with vocalist Caroline Hatchard and a review of a carol concert	c. 1935

YSO 2/2/3	Articles on the YSO and on music in general	
YSO 2/2/3/1	Articles regarding music in Lent and Advent <i>(two items)</i>	1900
YSO 2/2/3/2	Articles concerning music in York <i>(Five items)</i>	1903
YSO 2/2/3/3	Article on YSO including reproduced photograph of the orchestra	1906
YSO 2/2/3/4	Article on the YSO	1909
YSO 2/2/3/5	Article on T. Tertius Noble and an article on Michael William Balfe	1913-c.1915
YSO 2/2/3/6	Articles concerning music during the First World War, including the playing of German music <i>(five items)</i>	1915
YSO 2/2/3/7	Article on the financial position of the York Musical Society	1919
YSO 2/2/3/8	Articles on the resuscitation of the orchestra after WW1 <i>(five items)</i>	1919
YSO 2/2/3/9	Article calling for regular YSO concerts	1933
YSO 2/2/4	Newspaper announcements of forthcoming concerts	
YSO 2/2/4/1	Newspaper announcements <i>(seven items)</i>	1899-1910
YSO 2/2/4/2	Newspaper announcements <i>(ten items)</i>	1913
YSO 2/2/4/3	Newspaper announcements <i>(two items)</i>	1914
YSO 2/2/5	Advertising correspondence	
YSO 2/2/5/1	Correspondence and notes regarding advertising <i>(four items)</i>	1914