CHAPTER 6

1945–1954

THE POST-WAR YEARS

Music-making received a significant boost during the War/Emergency years, but although the programme of studies increased the question of suitable premises had not been solved.

Premises

In 1946 the Minutes record the problem with telegram-like urgency:

Present building totally unsuited and accommodation inadequate. Urgent necessity to provide new building.

By 1950 it was decided to carry out alterations rather than seek new premises, and in 1951 plans were ready. The Minutes recorded:

School of Music

1. Seating lay-out plan for Assembly Hall as prepared by Architect and providing accommodation for a maximum of 130 persons. Adherence to this seating plan to be strictly observed.

2. Large scale drawing of Committee crest for use as a shield for erection on school building as prepared by Architect.

3. Items of equipment to be provided as requested by Mr McNamara and listed in report.

4. Bracket to hold gas ring in cleaners’ room to be provided by the Maintenance Staff, approximate cost 30/-

In early 1953 detailed reports from the Architect and Clerk of Works were received by the Committee:

Approval under the Town and Regional Planning Acts, 1934 and 1939, for the alterations to the School of Music have also been received by the Architects subject to the following:-

1. The flower beds in front of the new entrance to west wing must be omitted.

2. The window sills in Clarendon Market must not project more than 1.5" beyond the face of the building.

3. Rain water and other pipes on the Clarendon Market face of the building must be recessed up to a height of 7ft. at least.

The flat-felt roof over portion of the Music Room is also to be covered with tarmac and the detailed building matters were listed.

The new extension was officially opened in May 1954 by the Archbishop of Dublin, Most Rev. John Charles McQuaid.

Appointments 1946

Candidates for the post of part-time teacher of pianoforte were interviewed, to fill the vacancy created by Mr V. Love’s resignation. As none of the candidates were available for the full number of teaching hours required, it was decided to make two appointments. Mr Walter Beckett and Mr H. S. Greig were appointed to the vacancy at the remuneration of 5/- per hour in each case.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Rate per hour</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violin</td>
<td>Miss Jean Meacock</td>
<td>5/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pending appointment of successor to Miss M. Kenny, deceased.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr John MacKenzie</td>
<td>5/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pianoforte</td>
<td>Miss May Ward</td>
<td>5/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pending appointment of successor to Mr V. Love, resigned.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Rate per hour

41
Sub-Committee Meeting 1946
A typical meeting is recorded in the Minutes for 17th January 1946


An apology for non-attendance was received from Dr P. T. Breathnach.

Alderman M. O'Sullivan, Chairman, presided.

The members unanimously voiced their regret in the loss of their late colleague, Dr Sherlock, and directed that their sympathy be conveyed to his widow.

1. Michael McNamara 1946
The appointment of Mr Michael McNamara as Assistant Director and temporary whole-time teacher in the School of Music, stating that the Minister remains of the opinion that the appropriate conditions of service should provide for a minimum of 800 hours per session, but that in any session in which Mr McNamara's total hours of instruction may fall short of this figure, the Minister will be prepared to take into account the time given to other duties when arriving at the total number of his teaching hours per session.

2. The desirability of establishing a Music Library was discussed and it was agreed that a start could be made by having a copy of each piece, song or story, appearing in the new syllabus, kept in the School for reference. The need for trios, etc., was also stressed.

3. In connection with the production of The Prodigal Son the Board agreed that woodwind and organ be added to the strings.

4. Arising out of the Minutes, the Board decided that a satisfactory solution of the question of a longer lesson for singing pupils could be found, by allowing those who desired 30 minutes instead of 20 to pay £1.10s. instead of £1, and accordingly recommend this proposal for the Committee's consideration.

It was further recommended that ten scholarships consisting of free tuition be awarded in the brass wind instrument section, under conditions as proposed by the Director:

(a) Educational standard to be not lower than 6th standard

(b) Candidates to be over 14 years of age

(c) Candidates must undergo a test in Aural Culture

(d) Scholarship to be held to one term's probation and renewal on report from Director as to satisfactory attendance and progress.

Order - Noted. Recommendations adopted. Mr J.R. Clarke, 33 Addison Road, Fairview, appointed member of the Local Sub-Committee in room of Mr P. P. McMenamin, resigned.

Library
In 1946 it was decided to found a School Library:-

Director's Report on foundation of School Library, arising out of which the following recommendations are made:
Duties of Librarian
To be in attendance when Library is open.
To be responsible for the safe keeping and condition of books, music and scores.
To advise students on useful reading and musical matters.
To compile catalogue of books, music, scores, etc.
To use card index system regarding lending of books, etc.
To keep accounts and make all entries in stock book.

It was further recommended that the work of conversion of Room No. 6 and the partitioning of Room No. 7 be done during the holiday period.

Opening of Library
Wednesday 27th October was fixed as the date of the opening. It was decided to ask Alderman M.O'Sullivan, T.D., to officiate, and that members of the Committee and some students be invited. A recommendation was made for grant of further sum of £15 to cover the cost of more books for the Library.

Order – Report adopted and recommendations approved. Alderman McCann to open Library. Grant of extra £15 to cover the cost of more technical books for the Library.

Enrolments 1945-1949
Enrolments over the period showed a steady increase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>First term</th>
<th>Second term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1945-6</td>
<td>1,114</td>
<td>1,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946-7</td>
<td>1,202</td>
<td>1,250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrolments for Second Term, Session 1947-48, reached 1,412, this number included a new class in Elocution for which 91 students enrolled. The enrolments for second term last Session were 1,250 and the first term this Session 1,272, excluding the elocution students. This shows an increase of 49.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>First term</th>
<th>Second term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1948-49</td>
<td>1,412</td>
<td>1,414</td>
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St. Joseph's School for the Blind
The willingness of the School to accommodate community requests is seen from the following correspondence and arrangements:-

A letter was read from the Prior, St. Joseph’s School for the Blind, dated 28th February 1949:-

We have a young totally blind man here, one Francis Manning, aged about 24 years, who has been studying music for some years past under Professor Murray, and he has obtained a Teacher's Diploma of the London Trinity College of Music since January 1948, so that he is qualified to teach pianoforte. He has also won the Vandaleur Scholarship for the organ, at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, last December, enabling him to obtain free tuition for one year.

We should like to employ him here at St. Joseph's, so that he may be able to make a livelihood on his own, but unfortunately, we are not in a position to pay him anything like a decent salary, or what should be deemed his worth as music-teacher and choirmaster, principally owing to the fact that we receive no grant for such purpose. As he is anxious to follow up music and still be associated with our Institution, I wonder would it be possible for the Vocational Committee to employ him, and appoint him as teacher here in a somewhat similar manner as say, our National School teacher.
is appointed and paid by the Department of Education.

It would certainly be a very practical way of enabling this blind man to take his place in society as an ordinary person, and at the same time be the means of giving professional tuition to our young blind pupils, most of whom acquire a taste for music, particularly the piano.

May I hope for your kind and sympathetic consideration of the matter at your convenience.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that he had referred this matter to the Director of the Municipal School of Music, who reported as follows:

As requested, I paid a visit to St. Joseph’s Blind Asylum, Drumcondra, on Tuesday, 29th March, and had an interview with Mr Francis Manning, a blind inmate of that Institution.

I was very much impressed by his methods of dealing with blind students of the pianoforte and can state that he achieved good results: he gave three lessons to students of different capabilities in my presence, and I was impressed by his handling of their different problems.

He is a patient nice young man (25 years) and seemed to enjoy the work he was doing and to be liked by those he was dealing with and there was a sympathy between them.

Most of this kind of teaching is on a memory basis, but a knowledge of the Braille system is very necessary in dealing with the blind and few non-blind teachers of the pianoforte have this knowledge.

In addition to piano teaching he teaches the choir and plays the organ in the Institution and is very successful on both: he holds the Teacher’s Diploma from Trinity College, London, for pianoforte teaching, which is quite a good qualification.

At present he has seven pupils for piano in the Asylum and the maximum at any time would be approximately twelve. He does no teaching outside the Institution.

I would strongly recommend that if possible, aid should be given to help the work done for music, with regard to the blind people in this Institution.

Order – Request approved. Mr F. Manning to be employed as part-time teacher of pianoforte in St. Joseph’s Asylum for the Blind at rate of remuneration under fee-paying category 1, viz., 8/6d per hour of actual teaching; one hour per week per pupil to be allocated; Sessional terms to be as in Municipal School of Music.

By October 1952 these arrangements were so successful that the scheme was enlarged:-

That the application from Rev. Brother Corcoran be granted and that six additional pupils be enrolled for pianoforte with Mr Manning in St. Joseph’s Asylum and School for Male Blind, bringing the total number of students to thirteen.

This appointment was an innovation in blind schools in Ireland and, according to Frank Manning himself, the first time in the history of the state that a blind musician was appointed as an official teacher. He held his classes in the evening, retaining his day job as telephonist in the Civil Service. He conducted his classes through the use of Braille music, and in addition was organiser in St. Joseph’s. Music brought great pleasure and comfort not only to himself but to his blind students. He still plays and remembers the kind encouragement of Fr Murphy, choirmaster, of the Carmelite Order who ran St. Joseph’s from 1932 until the Rosmini Fathers took over in 1955, and Martin Gleeson, CEO of the City of Dublin VEC, and Joseph O’Brien, Director of the Municipal School of Music.

Memorial Scholarships

It was proposed in 1949 that Memorial Scholarships be instituted by the Vocational Education Committee in memory of Mr Louis Ely O’Carroll, Mr Arthur Darley and Dr Lorcan Sherlock, and that in addition to the Scholarships, Gold Medals be awarded – the O’Carroll Scholarship for singing, the Darley Scholarship for violin playing, and the Sherlock Scholarship for advanced piano playing. The first competition in 1950 was recorded as follows:-

The Sub-Committee recommended the purchase and award of the Memorial Medals in connection with the 1950 examinations in the School of Music as follows:-

Pianoforte
Lorcan Sherlock Medal to Alicia Turnbull
Violin
Arthur Darley Medal to Brendan O'Reilly
Singing
Louis Ely O’Carroll Medal to Claire Kelleher
The Madame Lucy Donnelly Cup, presented by her husband Mr T. Gogan was also awarded in 1950:-

Madame Donnelly Memorial Cup Competition to be held on Friday, 29th June. Donor, Mr Gogan, to be asked to present Cup. Mrs Aileen Gore recommended as adjudicator at examination as Mr Charles Lynch is not available.

The Sub-Committee recommended payment of the sum of two guineas to Mr Denis Cox, part-time teacher of singing, whose services were required in the School of Music on the occasion of the special test for piano accompaniment.

By 1951 a new arrangement was made for examiners from the Associated Board, London, to conduct the annual examinations.

A letter was read from Mr L.H. Macklin, The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, stating that all arrangements have been made for Sir George Dyson, Mr R.J. Forbes and Mr James to arrive in Dublin by air on Sunday 22nd June. For Singing the examiner is to be Mr Cuthbert Smith of the R.C.M. staff.

Sub-Committee Meeting 1949
The Minutes of the meetings of the Local Sub-Committee appointed to advise the CDVEC provide further insight into the progress of the School. The following is a summary of the meeting held on 25th February 1949:-

Report on preliminary meeting with Radio Eireann was discussed: Conference to be resumed with Radio Eireann authorities.

The Director’s recommendation re Prospectus and Syllabus was approved, i.e., that the Prospectus be issued separately from the Syllabus, the latter to appear at the beginning of 2nd Term.

Recommendations from the Board of Musical Studies
1. Re Concert by Senior Students on 28th April 1949. That the School be closed on evening of Concert from 5 p.m. That Orchestral parts be hired for the following items:
   (a) Song of Destiny (Brahms)
   (b) Violin Concerto in G (Haydn)
That numbered admission tickets be ordered as follows: 500 at 2/-, and 750 at 3/-.
2. The proposed formation of an Operatic Society was deferred pending further discussion and enquiries.
3. In order to keep step with contemporary musical activities, it was suggested that certain musical periodicals be purchased for the Library. It was agreed that specimens be submitted for the Board’s inspection at the next meeting.

Scholarships Abroad
Alderman John McCann championed the first scholarship for study abroad on behalf of “the talented violin student, Miss Geraldine O’Grady”, to enable her to continue her musical education in Paris. A subsequent report from her teacher, M. Jean Fournier, stated that:-

She had made very important progress and had justified all his hopes. He recommended that Miss O’Grady be allowed to continue her studies.

Geraldine O’Grady was the first of many exceptional students of the School – string players, singers and pianists – who have been awarded scholarships by the CDVEC for further study abroad.

In 1950 the Sub-Committee consisted of the following members:-

Very Rev. John Canon Fitzpatrick D.D., P.P. “Monte Coelio” Foxrock
Councillor P. J. Cahill
64 Aungier Street
Alderman John McCann T.D.
68 Fortfield Road Terenure
Mrs K. Clarke
40 Merlyn Road Ballsbridge
Mr W. J. Whelan
61 Lower Beechwood Avenue
Mr Hilary Williams
46 Lambay Road Drumcondra
Rev. Charles Collins S.M.
89 Lower Leeson Street
Mr Peter J. Flanagan
9 Shelmarin Avenue Fairview
Miss Elizabeth Graves
2 Warwick Terrace Leeson Park
Mr J. K. Clarke
33 Addison Road Fairview
Mr P. J. Malone
37 Lower Gardiner Street
Mr H. F. Thunder
22 Whitehall Road Terenure

Whole-time
M. J. Bertin
Mrs Byrne-Raymond
Miss E. Costello
Miss R. Cunney
Miss J. Curran
Miss C. Greene
Mr W.S. Greig
Mr J. Hickey
Miss O. Mulcahy
Mr F. O Lochlainn
Miss S. O Loughlin
Dr J. J. O'Reilly
Mr W. Reidy
Miss C. Rogers
Miss M. Russell
Miss M. Costello
Miss P. Victory
Miss M. Ward

Part-time
Dr W. Beckett
Mr R. Bushnell
Miss J. Carey
Mr D. Cox
Miss M. Flood
Miss N. Kane

Teaching Staff 1952
The teaching staff continued to expand:-

Director
Mr J. O'Brien

Asst. Director
Mr M. McNamara
Mr F. Manning  
Mr L. Maguire  
Mr J. MacKenzie  
Mr N. O'Gorman  
Mr J. O'Keeffe  
Mr P. O Mongain  
Mr R. Power  
Mr G. Purcell  
Mr L. Rowsome  
Mr G. Shanahan  
Miss K. Uhlemann

Most of the School's work was at this time conducted by temporary part-time teachers for very modest remuneration, but a spirited objection to this was made by one teacher:-

A letter was read from Miss Mary Keogh, part-time teacher of Choral Training, regretfully tendering her resignation in view of the inadequacy of her remuneration, stating that she is not prepared to teach for less than £1 per hour.

Order – Resignation not accepted, the Department to be asked to approve payment of remuneration to Miss Keogh under the highest fee-paying category.

However the Department of Education did not sanction the increase, and the long battle for improvement in pay and conditions went on.

Fees and Classes
Proposed term fees for Session 1950-51 were recommended as follows:

First Term – 4th September 1950 to 31st January 1951

Second Term – 1st February 1951 to 16th June 1951

Pianoforte
- Preliminary and Primary Classes 20/-
- Individual 40/-
- Violin 40/-
- Viola 30/-
- Violoncello 40/-
- Double-Bass 20/-

Singing and Voice Production
- Lesson of 20 minutes 40/-
- Lesson of 30 minutes 60/-
- Gaelic singing 20/-
- Sight Reading (Vocal) 15/-
- (To students of other classes) 2/6
- Elocution 15/-

Wind Instruments
- Wood and Brass 15/-
- Fife and Drum 15/-
- Uilleann Pipes 15/-
- Irish War-Pipes 15/-

Rudiments of Music and Aural Training
- Harmony Class 20/-
- Harmony Individual 40/-
- Diploma class 40/-
- Theoretical 40/-
- Practical 80/-

Chamber Music Classes
- Per student (extern) 20/-
- Per student (intern) 10/-

Professional Ensemble Class
- Per student (extern) 20/-
- Per student (intern) 10/-
Orchestral Classes 2/6 per Session
Choral Classes "
Military Band "
Rudiments of Music Per student (intern) "

In 1952 the span of classes was listed as follows:-

Pianoforte (Indiv.)
Piano Classes
Violin
Viola
Violoncello
Wind Instruments
Singing and Voice Production
Gaelic Singing
War-Pipes
Uilleann Pipes
Choral Training
Accompaniments
Sight Reading (Vocal)
Elocution
Orchestra (Senior)
Orchestra (Junior)
Orchestra (Prep.)
Military Band
Percussion Band
Harmony, Rudiments of Music & Aural Training

Prize-winners 1952

Elliman Memorial Prize
Trombone John Tate
Flute Ann Kinsella

Examination Prize-winners
Pianoforte
Eily O'Grady
Una Murphy
Maureen Carolan
Sheila O'Grady
Brian McLoughlin
Judith Ryle
Margaret Tobin
Cloidagh McSwiney
Brian Brennan
Deirdre Levins

Singing
Sylvia Walsh

Pianoforte & Violin
John O'Mahony

Violin
Sheila O'Grady
Ita Herbert
Eric Winter
Seán O'Grady
Loretto McGrath
John Sheahan
Nuala Levins
Roger Jagoe
Brian Walsh
Peter Kirwan
Thérèse Adams
Patrick Hayes
Brendan Doyle
Thomas Bieler

Elocution
Miriam Traynor
Eileen Doyle
Colette Early
Marie Mulligan

Violoncello
Ita Doyle
Nuala Levins

In 1952 the name of a notable teacher appeared at the beginning of a long and distinguished career. The Sub-Committee recommended:-

The employment of Miss Nancy Calthorpe, part-time teacher of pianoforte, as temporary chorus mistress for the Technical Students' Musical Society, in the absence of Dr W. Beckett who has gone to study in Italy.

In May 1953 payment of a grant of £25 was approved towards the expenses involved in the Society's production of *The Arcadians*.

Michael McNamara Principal

In 1953 Joseph O'Brien retired and was succeeded by Michael McNamara, who had been associated with the School since 1928. He became a greatly-loved Principal over the next sixteen years until his retirement in 1969. He was also active as examiner and teacher at the Cork Municipal School of Music, and at the request of the County Cork Vocational Education Committee acted as advisor on a scheme for the promotion of violin-playing in the Committee's administrative area.
**Summer Schools of Music**

An interesting experiment was initiated by the Department of Education, with the assistance of an advisory committee, when a Summer School of Music was established in Dublin in August and September 1946. Two-week courses were given in choral and orchestral conducting, pianoforte and violin playing and composition. Applications for permission to attend the courses were received from all parts of the country. Admission to the choral and orchestral courses was confined to advanced performers. No fees were charged and travelling expenses were refunded to those who attended.

Owing to the large number of applicants it was necessary to organise two courses in choral training, both of which were under the direction of A.C. Keeton, B.Mus., F.R.C.O., of Scarborough. Over 120 enthusiastic school-teachers, choirmasters and directors of musical societies attended the courses, which included a considerable amount of practical work on the technique of choral training and voice production.

There was an attendance of over sixty at the course of lectures given by Hubert Clifford, D.Mus., on the training of school orchestras. M. Jean Martinon, Herbert Fryer, Henry Holst and Sir Arnold Bax also gave lectures and conducted seminars.

In all 167 students were admitted to the Summer School and the majority of these attended more than one course. For instance, most of those who attended the choral classes were interested in the training of school orchestras, and a number who attended the latter course also attended the course in orchestral conducting. Special facilities were given to members of the staffs of the principal music institutions to be present at the courses, and to attend the semi-public recitals given by some of the lecturers.

All the courses were held in Coláiste Mhuire, Cathal Brugha Street, Dublin, with the permission of the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee, except for the course in orchestral conducting, which was held in the Phoenix Hall. Valuable assistance was given by the Director and Assistant Director of the Municipal School of Music, who lent scores and instruments and arranged for the attendance of a demonstration orchestra composed of students from the School.

A spirit of enthusiasm and friendliness existed throughout between the students and the lecturers, who co-operated wholeheartedly with the advisory committee and the Department of Education in ensuring the success of the Summer School. The 1946 Summer School was so successful that it was decided to repeat the experiment in 1947, when 175 students attended courses in choral training, orchestral conducting, pianoforte, violin and violoncello, composition, singing, and training of wind bands.

For the next ten years Department of Education Summer Schools brought the finest musicians from Great Britain and the Continent to Irish teachers and students; including staff, students, and participating student orchestras from the Municipal School.

**Broadcasts and Concerts**

Radio broadcasts were a regular feature, as were concerts in the Town Hall, Rathmines, the Mansion House and the Gresham Hotel. These events are remembered as highlights of the School’s calendar by many past pupils:

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Receipt was noted of fee of £4 received for broadcast by Junior Orchestra, School of Music, 11th June 1946. It was agreed that the fee be allocated to the conductor of the Orchestra.

In 1948 a Department of Education letter noted:

Regarding the disposal of fees received in respect of broadcasts by the Orchestrar of the Municipal School of Music, stating that,
in the circumstances represented, no objection will be raised to the proposal to grant the equivalent of such fees in future to the Students' Union attached to the Municipal School of Music.

Primary School Concerts
Concerts held in primary schools or in large local venues continued to introduce the School to a wider audience, as reported in the following Minute:-

Referring to the Primary School Concerts, the Sub-Committee are of the opinion that the good work done is negatived largely by the absence of accommodation for new students who are anxious to learn music having heard the Municipal School's young performers, and recommend for the immediate consideration of the Vocational Education Committee that music should be taught in the Vocational Schools outside the School of Music, that provision be made in the newly planned Regional Schools for the inclusion of music-teaching rooms, and that the suggested courses be under the control of the Director of the Municipal School of Music.

The scale of the concerts may be seen from this Minute of 1949:-

Primary School Concerts: Owing to the reluctance of certain school authorities to release children to perform, it was recommended to have an Evening Concert, held if possible in the Phoenix Hall (with an accommodation of 400), where children could be invited.

Choirs and Bands
Another notable feature of this period was the service rendered to the many new commercial and industrial and other choirs and bands formed in the city:-

The Director, School of Music, reported that a choir had been started by the Printing Trade, and recommended that under the Committee's scheme, the services of a conductor should be provided, for which post he recommended Mr Gerald Dillon, who is already on the Panel. The Sub-Committee approved of these recommendations.

Arising out of a letter from the Secretary, Catholic Boys' Brigade, asking if tuition could be arranged for members of the Boys' Band, more particularly in brass and woodwind instruments, it was recommended, in view of the proposal to form a full Municipal Orchestra, that Mr J. O'Keeffe should give 4.5 hours tuition weekly in the Boys' Brigade premises with a view to preparing the members of the Band for inclusion in the Orchestra, the teaching fee to be 7/6d per hour as in the case of conductors of extern choirs.

The adoption of the following suggestion from the Board of Musical Studies regarding a School Choir was recommended:-

The Board feel that the establishment of a good permanent Choir will be helped by the admission without fee, of past pupils and others, provided they give satisfactory auditions and a promise to attend regularly, subject to the Director's approval in individual cases.

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Sydney Greig at the organ of St Patrick's Cathedral.

Organ Classes
An important development was noted in the Minutes:-

That, in connection with classes in organ playing, which will commence next Session, Mr W.S. Greig, permanent whole-time teacher of pianoforte, to be transferred to teachership of organ, when required.
without change of status: it is understood that part-time teachers may also be required, dependent on the number of applications for instruction. The fee for students of the organ classes to be £6 per term – one hour’s tuition per week.

In 1954 tenders were considered for:-

Supply and installation of organ: Municipal School of Music

and it was noted that

the question of starting a class in Gregorian Chant for organists and choirmasters should be an agenda item for the next meeting.