

DR. DAVID E. JONES MUSICAL COLLECTION

FINDING AID

DESCRIPTION

Title	DR. DAVID E. JONES MUSICAL COLLECTION
Repository	Lackawanna Historical Society
Accession no.	1948.04.01
Dates	1867-1948; bulk 1901-1947
Extent	59 volumes and 16 boxes
Aid prepared by	Jonathan W. Wilson, 2015  (incorporates material by Carolyn Barber and Nancy McDonald)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Dr. David Evan Jones (Nov. 25, 1867-Jan. 15, 1948) was born in Cwmdare, Wales, to a mine foreman (also named David Evan Jones) and to Tabitha Smith Jones. He grew up in Aberdare, where he taught music until age 19. After his father's death, he immigrated to the United States with his mother and five sisters and settled in Taylor, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. There he married Caroline Neiger, and they had two daughters, Verna and Rea.

In the Lackawanna Valley, Jones enrolled in Wood's Business College and worked as a bookkeeper in the store of the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company. Later, he became a private secretary of Joseph A. Scranton, the publisher of the *Scranton Republican*. He served as deputy county treasurer under Joseph Scranton from 1901 to 1905.

Jones became a community leader as a musician and journalist. He worked as a music critic (from around 1892 until his death) for the *Republican*, the *Scranton Tribune*, and the *Scrantonian*. He studied at the Institute of Musical Arts in New York under Frank Damrosch and at New York University under Thomas Tapper, and he received the degree of doctor of music from New York University in 1908. He worked as supervisor of music for the Taylor Public Schools from 1912 to 1941, and he was the vocal teacher of the film star Allan Jones, who grew up in the Scranton area.

Jones helped organize *The Druid*, a local Welsh-language newspaper, and organized the Taylor Symphony Orchestra in 1907. He also served on the board of directors of the

Scranton Symphony Orchestra, and he became heavily involved in the organizing of *eisteddfau* (singular *eisteddfod*), or Welsh cultural festivals, which feature prominently in this collection. In 1930, he won first prize in an essay competition at the National Eisteddfod in Jackson, Ohio, where he presented an essay on “The Effect of Mechanical Reproduction on the Art of Music.” He was also a chief organizer of the National Eisteddfod held in Scranton in 1936, and he wrote the program notes for a Welsh concert at Carnegie Hall, New York, in 1937.

Jones wrote a book-length manuscript history of Welsh music, “The Story of the Eisteddfod,” intending it as “a complete history of the Eisteddfod, oldest of Welsh institutions, both in Wales and America.” He sent it to Wales for review by scholars at Cardiff University. They recommended against the book’s publication, and the manuscript’s current location is unknown. He also compiled a book of humorous stories about musicians, “Laugh, Minstrel, Laugh”; the typescript is included in this collection.

After his retirement as music superintendent of the Taylor Public Schools and the death of his wife, Caroline Neiger Jones, in 1941, Jones moved from Taylor to Pottsville, in Schuylkill County, to live with his surviving daughter and son-in-law, Rea and John J. Parry. (His younger daughter Verna had died of diphtheria at age 16 in 1910.) In Schuylkill County, he organized a Cambrian Society and served as its founding president.

On March 8, 1946, Jones was severely injured in an automobile accident in Panther Valley, but he survived. Early in the morning on January 15, 1948, at the age of 80, he suffered a fatal heart attack in bed. His funeral service was held at Ebenezer Welsh Presbyterian Church in Scranton, and he was buried in Dunmore Cemetery. According to a newspaper report, upon hearing of his death, the chairman of New York University’s music department, Philip James, said, “Dr. Jones was unique in his line. He could have come to New York and been eminently successful. But no, he was too loyal to his home town.”

By the time of his death, Jones reportedly had amassed a private library of approximately 200 bound volumes of musical journals, 100 opera and 100 oratorio scores, 150 hymnals, and 1,000 books on music, in addition to his collection of newspaper articles and notes. This finding aid describes the D. E. Jones Collection, a portion of his library, which was donated to the Lackawanna Historical Society.

Further biographical information and photographs are available in *Scrantonian* articles dated June 5, 1938; June 11, 1944; and Nov. 25, 1945 (in vols. 46, 49, and 50 of this collection); an obituary in the *Scranton Tribune* (Jan. 16, 1948, p. 1); and the biographical sketch “Let There Be Music,” *Lackawanna Historical Bulletin* 1, no. 5 (May-June 1967), pp. 1-2. Additional information is scattered throughout this collection.

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS

The main collection comprises 59 binders of notes and newspaper clippings, and 15 boxes of loose manuscript and print materials (reportedly numbering more than 15,000 items in all), identifying musicians and exhaustively documenting musical performances and other cultural events in the region of Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The bulk covers years from 1901 to 1947. The collection places special emphasis on matters related to Welsh and Welsh-American heritage.

## INVENTORY

### I. CARD CATALOG

File of index cards on individual people mentioned elsewhere in the collection, alphabetized by surname. Identifies the dates and sources of relevant newspaper articles in the body of the collection.

### II. BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES

Typewritten descriptions of musicians and composers, primarily from the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area and from Wales. Compiled by D. E. Jones, who collected nearly 10,000 entries by the time of his death. Most of these individuals lived in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, but some date to earlier periods of Welsh history. Alphabetized by surname. Entries range in length from one line to two pages; some include lists of performances.

Vol.	1	Abraham, Thomas to Davies, Sylvanus
	2	Davies, T. to Fychan, Simwnt
	3	Gabriel, J. T. to Jones, Griffith
	4	Jones, Griffith to Nuttall, William
	5	Ogwen, Alun to Ryan, Catherine
	6	Sage, Samuel to Zeciel, Billy

### III. SCRAPBOOKS

Scrapbooks of typewritten notes and of clippings from area newspapers, mostly in the city of Scranton. Most relate to news of local musicians and musical events, including choral programs, concert tours, church festivals, minstrel shows, folk festivals, and theatrical and film performances. Collection also includes editorials (many written by D. E. Jones) and advertisements.

Include some news articles and editorials of a non-musical nature, particularly during wartime. Organized chronologically, except vols. 7-15 constitute a parallel set to vols. 16-59, and some entries are out of order. Early volumes mix typewritten notes and newspaper clippings, but later volumes include only newspaper clippings.

Vol. 7	Dec. 1867 to Dec. 1900
8	Jan. 1901 to Dec. 1904
9	Jan. 1905 to Dec. 1906
10	Jan. 1907 to Dec. 1913
11	Jan. 1914 to Dec. 1921
12	Jan. 2, 1922 to Apr. 13, 1932
13	Apr. 13, 1922 to Dec. 31, 1943
14	Editorials: 1938-1944
15	Editorials: Jun. 26, 1944 to Dec. 31, 1947
16	Jan. 1877 to Dec. 1904
17	Jan. 1885 to Dec. 1890
18	Jan. 1891 to Dec. 1894
19	Jan. 1895 to Oct. 1897 and May 1, 1898 to Jun. 9, 1898
20	Jun. 11, 1898 to Oct. 31, 1900
21	Jan. 2, 1903 to Apr. 30, 1904
22	Jan. 21, 1905 to Dec. 31, 1910 and Jan. 7, 1922 to Nov. 11, 1922
23	Feb. 3, 1911 to Dec. 30, 1916
24	Nov. 12, 1922 to May 30, 1924
25	May 29, 1924 to Dec. 23, 1925

- 26 Nov. 24, 1925 to Nov. 27, 1926
- 27 Nov. 27, 1926 to Oct. 13, 1927
- 28 Oct. 14, 1927 to Jun. 12, 1928
- 29 Jun. 13, 1928 to Jan. 31, 1929
- 30 Feb. 1, 1929 to Jul. 3, 1929
- 31 Jul. 5, 1929 to Mar. 3, 1930
- 32 Mar. 13, 1930 to Nov. 18, 1930
- 33 Oct. 30, 1930 to May 5, 1931
- 34 May 5, 1931 to Jan. 29, 1932
- 35 Jan. 29, 1932 to Aug. 6, 1932
- 36 Aug. 8, 1932 to Mar. 11, 1933
- 37 Mar. 11, 1933 to Sep. 7, 1933
- 38 Sep. 5, 1933 to Apr. 9, 1934
- 39 Apr. 10, 1934 to Dec. 25, 1934
- 40 Dec. 25, 1934 to Aug. 31, 1935
- 41 Sep. 1, 1935 to Mar. 31, 1936
- 42 Apr. 1, 1936 to Sep. 14, 1936
- 43 Sep. 15, 1936 to Mar. 29, 1937
- 44 Mar. 29, 1937 to Nov. 23, 1937
- 45 Nov. 24, 1937 to Apr. 3, 1938
- 46 Apr. 3, 1938 to Nov. 26, 1938
- 47 Nov. 27, 1938 to May 19, 1939
- 48 May 20, 1939 to Nov. 25, 1939

- 49 Nov. 26, 1939 to May 21, 1940
- 50 May 21, 1940 to Feb. 12, 1941
- 51 Feb. 12, 1941 to Sep. 25, 1941
- 52 Sep. 25, 1941 to July 13, 1942
- 53 July 14, 1942 to July 31, 1943
- 54 Aug. 1, 1943 to May 8, 1944
- 55 May 9, 1944 to Mar. 4, 1945
- 56 Mar. 5, 1945 to Feb. 28, 1946
- 57 Feb. 28, 1946 to Dec. 19, 1946
- 58 Dec. 21, 1946 to Aug. 17, 1947
- 59 Aug. 21, 1947 to Jan. 18, 1948

#### IV. Boxes

Boxes of loose materials from the files of D. E. Jones, including correspondence, concert programs, church bulletins, photographs, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous print materials. Many apparently relate to Jones's work as a newspaper contributor or to musical events he attended in person.

- |     |      |                                   |
|-----|------|-----------------------------------|
| Box | 1    | Scranton Programs and Articles    |
|     | File | 1 Churches                        |
|     |      | 2 Concert Programs                |
|     |      | 3 Surrounding Communities         |
|     |      | 4 Scranton Philharmonic Orchestra |
|     |      | 5 Scranton Conservatory of Music  |
|     |      | 6 Scranton Symphony Orchestra     |
|     |      | 7 Century Club                    |

- 8 Central High School
- 9 Community Opera Society
- 10 Scranton Liederkranz
- 11 Keystone Concert Course
- 12 Academy of Music [MISSING]
- 13 Scranton Civic Opera
- 14 Community Concert Association
- 15 Welsh Programs

Box 2 D. E. Jones's Travels

- File 1 Pa.: Outside Northeast
- 2 New Jersey
- 3 Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
- 4 Pottsville, Pa.
- 5 Bethlehem, Pa.
- 6 Philadelphia
- 7 Utica, N.Y.
- 8 New York
- 9 San Carlo Opera Company
- 10 Boston and Other New England
- 11 Outside East Coast

Box 3 Musicians, Composers, and Conductors

- File 1 Local Musicians and Music
- 2 Famous Musicians

- 3 Famous Male Performers
- 4 Famous Female Performers
- 5 Allan Jones
- 6 Jeanne Madden
- 7 Carrie Nation
- 8 Thomas L. Thomas
- 9 Mde. Clara Novello Davis
- 10 Paderewski
- 11 Josef Hofmann
- 12 Conductors

Box 4 Musical Magazines and Organizations

- File 1 Contemporary American Musicians
- 2 Musical America
- 3 Musical Digest
- 4 Musician Biographies
- 5 Modern Music Before 1948
- 6 European Music Reviews and Performers
- 7 Works Progress Administration
- 8 Atwater Kent Foundation
- 9 Music Teaching
- 10 How Green Was My Valley
- 11 D. E. Jones's Reviews
- 12 Stephen Foster



- Box 5 Newspaper Articles: Criticism, Jazz, Humor, Etc.
- File 1 General Criticism
  - File 2 Jazz
  - File 3 Humor
  - File 4 Ernest Newman, N.Y. Post Guest Critic
  - File 5 Reviews
  - File 6 American Musical Culture
  - File 7 Trivia
  - File 8 Visual Art
- Box 6 Newspaper Articles about Books
- File 1 Music Books
  - File 2 Music Books (cont.)
  - File 3 Other Books
  - File 4 General Music Articles
  - File 5 General Music Articles (cont.)
- Box 7 Newspaper Articles about Instruments and Holidays
- File 1 Piano
  - File 2 Organ
  - File 3 Strings
  - File 4 Bells
  - File 5 Other Instruments
  - File 6 Christmas
  - File 7 Christmas Carols

- File 8 Other Holidays
- Box 8 Welsh Articles Written in English
  - File 1 Welsh in English
  - File 2 Welsh in English (cont.)
  - File 3 Welsh in English (cont.)
  - File 4 Welsh in English (cont.)
  - File 5 Welsh in English (cont.)
  - File 6 Welsh in English (cont.)
  - File 7 Correspondence
- Box 9 Welsh Articles Written in Welsh; Welsh Organizations
  - File 1 Welsh in Welsh
  - File 2 Welsh in Welsh (cont.)
  - File 3 Gymanfa Ganu
  - File 4 Eisteddfod
  - File 5 St. David's Society, N.Y.
  - File 6 Junger Maennerchor
- Box 10 Articles on Opera and Folk Music
  - File 1 Opera
  - File 2 Opera (cont.)
  - File 3 Wagner
  - File 4 American Operettas
  - File 5 Gilbert and Sullivan
  - File 6 American Folk Music

- File 7 American Dance
- File 8 African American Folk Music
- File 9 European Folk Music
- Box 11 Articles on Scranton and General History
  - File 1 Scranton
  - File 2 Scranton (cont.)
  - File 3 Scranton Fees Case
  - File 4 Harry Burleigh
  - File 5 Marriages
  - File 6 Retirements
  - File 7 Obituaries
  - File 8 Birthdays
  - File 9 Successions
  - File 10 Ancient History
  - File 11 Early America to 19th Century
  - File 12 America, 1890-1919
  - File 13 America, 1919-1939
  - File 14 World War II
  - File 15 World War II (cont.)
  - File 16 General History and Literature
  - File 17 Pennsylvania History of Music
- Box 12 Articles on Composers and Performance Ensembles
  - File 1 Composers

	File	2	Composers (cont.)
	File	3	Symphony
	File	4	Orchestra
	File	5	Chamber Music
Box	13		Photographs and Speeches
	File	1	Photographs (Performers, Publicity)
	File	2	Female Singer Photographs (Clippings)
	File	3	Male Singer Photographs (Clippings)
	File	4	Composer Photographs (Clippings)
	File	5	Misc. Musician Photographs (Clippings)
	File	6	Conductor Photographs (Clippings)
	File	7	Speeches by D. E. Jones (Typescript)
	File	8	Speeches by D. E. Jones (cont.)
	File	9	General Newspaper Photos
Box	14		Patriotic, International, or Bible-Related Clippings
	File	1	National Anthem and Flag
	File	2	International Music (Mostly World War II)
	File	3	England and Ireland
	File	4	Russia or Soviet Union
	File	5	Bible and Misc. Religious
	File	6	Hymns
	File	7	Language
	File	8	Correspondence of D. E. Jones

- File 9 Correspondence of D. E. Jones (cont.)
- Box 15 Singing Articles and the Borough of Taylor
  - File 1 Singing
  - File 2 Taylor History
  - File 3 Taylor History (cont.)
  - File 4 Issues of Y Cerddor (The Musician)
- Box 16 Typescript: “Laugh, Minstrel, Laugh” by D. E. Jones