

Irish Traditional Music Archive

Finding Aid - The Tommie Potts Collection (TPO-281722)

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Language of description: English

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The Tommie Potts Collection

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Summary information

Repository:	Irish Traditional Music Archive
Title:	The Tommie Potts Collection
Reference code:	TPO-281722
Date:	1935–1986 (date of creation)
Physical description:	144 pages
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Arrangement and initial description: 12 March 2024.
Note [generalNote]:	Duplicates copied from Original Music Manuscripts are stored with collection, but not scanned.

Custodial history

The collection was donated in good condition on the 7 March 2024 by James Furey. It was contained in two envelopes, within another large envelope. It has been held up to this point in Furey's mother's house.

Scope and content

Collection of original and photocopied music manuscripts, set lists, correspondence, and songs dating primarily from the mid-1980s. The majority of the material is in Tommie Potts' hand, but also includes correspondence from Míchéal Ó Súilleabháin and Paddy Dooley of The Welsh School of Violin-making. Two copybook pages with tune written in 1930s, written by John Gadge of Co. Tyrone. One photograph of Tommie Potts at a céilí included, taken 1935.

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

James Furey brought the collection to the Irish Traditional Music Archive at Merrion Square on Thursday, 7 March 2024.

Arrangement

The collection has been divided into 4 series: Original Music Manuscripts; Copies of Music Manuscripts and Sheet Music; Set Lists; Handwritten and typed songs; and Correspondence.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Partial
- **Institution identifier:** IE ITMA

Access points

- Ó Súilleabháin, Mícheál, 1950-2018 (subject)
- Ó Dubhlaoidh, Padraig, b. 1956 (subject)
- Moloney, Paddy, 1938-2021 (subject)
- Ireland: Instrumental Music (subject)
- Dublin (place)

Series descriptions

Series TPO-281722/1: Original Music Manuscripts and Copies

Creator: Potts, Tommie, 1912-1988

Date: 1980s (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Original music manuscripts primarily in Tommie Potts's hand, and copies of other manuscripts. 2 original envelopes.

Physical description: 109 pages

Arrangement:

Manuscripts have been arranged in alphabetical order by the title of the first tune on the sheet.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
TPO-281722/1/1	File - Original Music Manuscripts	1980s	106 pages

	<p><i>Creator:</i> Potts, Tommie, 1912-1988</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i> Music manuscripts in Tommie Potts's hand. Heavy annotation re variations, some incomplete, some untitled. Versions of tunes such as 'The rocky road to Dublin', 'The Boys of Ballisodare', 'The pigeon on the gate', and 'The musical priest', 'Little Jennifer' and 'Meandering'. Annotation re performance in Kiltra, Co.Wexford (Old Ship?). Annotation re Teilhard de Chardin. Note from 'Pat ?' on one manuscript. Includes fragments with lyrics of religious song in Potts's hand.</p>		
TPO-281722/1/2	File - Copies of Music Manuscripts	1980s	4 pages
	<p><i>Creator:</i> Potts, Tommie, 1912-1988</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i> Photocopy of page from Tacar port 2 (1961–2) by Breandán Breathnach featuring tunes by Peadar Ó Loughlin and Prionnsias Ó Brogúin. One copy entitled "'The wild swans at Coole' Liz Carroll's setting of Ed Reavy's composition". Others in Potts's hand.</p>		

Series TPO-281722/2: Set Lists

Creator: Potts, Tommie, 1912-1988

Date: 1980–1986 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Includes set list written on back of form from Walkinstown Social Service Centre. Also includes cassette inlay card dated February 1986 listing 15 tunes (annotation re reproduction and performance quality) and duplicate list written on an envelope. Includes set list on carbon paper with drawing of fiddle, a speech (?), and list of compositions by Potts.

Physical description: 9 pages

Publication status:

Published

Series TPO-281722/3: Handwritten and typed Songs

Creator: Potts, Tommie, 1912-1988

Date: 1973 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

'My Lagan Love' by Joseph Campbell, handwritten by Nellie Doyle (April 1973) and typed copy attached. Also includes song entitled "Hennessey's 'The Lodger'" in Potts' hand.

Physical description: 5 pages

Publication status:

Published

Series TPO-281722/4: CorrespondenceCreator: Potts, Tommie, 1912-1988Date: 1972-1986, and undated (date of creation)Scope and content:

Letter from Paddy Doaley of the Welsh School of Violin-making (1983) including tune of Ed Reavy. Letter from Mick O'Connor re Potts' decision to not be involved in archival project. Letters to Paddy Maloney including musings on folk music and musicians of the time. (7 June 1972). Letters to and from Michael O'Sullivan [Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin] at Music Department UCC.

Physical description: 20 pagesPublication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
TPO-281722/4/1	File - Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin <i>Creator:</i> Potts, Tommie, 1912-1988 <i>Scope and content:</i> Correspondence between Tommie Potts and Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin between 7 July 1985 and 13 August 1986 in relation to Ó Súilleabháin's PhD thesis research into the music of Tommie Potts. Includes one letter from Potts of a more spiritual nature (14 December 1985).	1985-1986	8 pages
TPO-281722/5	Item - Photograph of Tommie Potts at a céilí <i>Creator:</i> Potts, Tommie, 1912-1988 <i>Scope and content:</i> Torn photograph of Tommie Potts dancing at a céilí at the Garda Depot, Phoenix Park, 1935/1936. Irish Press copyright stamp on the back along with further annotation.	1935	1 black & white photograph