

# Explore York Archives

## Finding Aid - Iris Lemare, conductor (LEM)

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# Iris Lemare, conductor

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Explore York Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Iris Lemare, conductor
<b>Reference code:</b>	LEM
<b>Date:</b>	1931-1996 (creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	1 box
<b>Language:</b>	English

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Iris Lemare was born in London on 27 September 1902, the daughter of organist Edwin Lemare. Iris went to Bedales and then Geneva to study at the Dalcroze / Eurythmics School. She went on to study the organ under George Thalben-Ball at the Royal College of Music in London, where she won the Dove Prize. She also entered the conducting class of Malcolm Sargent.

In 1931, Lemare started concerts with Elisabeth Lutyens and violinist Anne Macnaghten. She conducted several of Benjamin Britten's early works, including the premiere of his Sinfonietta opus I and later his choral 'A Boy was Born'. She also premiered several works by Alan Rawsthorne, Christian Darnton, Elizabeth Maconchy amongst others. Overall the concerts premiered over 40 new works, many of them by women.

In 1937, Lemare became the first woman to conduct the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and during her career she also conducted the Oxford Chamber Orchestra and the Carlyle Singers. She loved opera and conducted Handel's Xerxes amongst other works in the late 1930s at Pollards, a house in Essex belonging to the Howard family.

During the Second World War she founded the Lemare Orchestra. She featured many new or little-known works and her soloists included Joan Hammond, Benno Moiseivitch, Geza Anda, Peter Donohoe and many others. In the 1970s she worked in opera and presented works by Menotti, Maconchy and Britten, and the premiere of John McCabe's The Play of Mother Courage.

Following her 81st birthday she was invited by the BBC Singers to conduct a 50th anniversary performance of Britten's 'A Boy was Born'.

Aside from her working life, Lemare was a keen walker, bird-watcher, swimmer and skier. She died on 23 April 1997 at Askham Bryan near York.

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### Note

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## Scope and content

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Includes notebooks, scrapbooks, certificates for her qualifications through the Royal College of Music, London Musical Competition and Kensington Musical Competition, invitation, concert programme and folder of biographical information.

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## Notes

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### Physical condition

Archives - Non-digital

### Restrictions on access

Open

Material is available subject to the usual terms and conditions of access to Archives and Local History collections.

## Conditions governing use

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## Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Institution identifier:** 192

## Series descriptions

### Series LEM/1: Notebooks

Creator: Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)

Date: January 1934-September 1962 (creation)

Scope and content: These notebooks include pasted in concert programmes and newspaper cuttings.

Physical description: 6 volumes

Language of the material:

- English

Physical condition: Archives - Non-digital

Restrictions on access: Open

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Publication status:

Published

### File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
LEM/1/1	<b>Item - Notebook</b>	January 1934- January 1938	1 volume
	<p><i>Creator:</i> Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i> Open Material is available subject to the usual terms and conditions of access to Archives and Local History collections.</p> <p><i>Conditions governing use:</i></p>		

	Images are supplied for private research only at the Archivist's discretion. Please note that material may be unsuitable for copying on conservation grounds. Researchers who wish to publish material must seek copyright permission from the copyright owner.		
LEM/1/2	<b>Item - Notebook</b>	May 1938-April 1942	1 volume
	<p><i>Creator:</i> Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i> Open Material is available subject to the usual terms and conditions of access to Archives and Local History collections.</p> <p><i>Conditions governing use:</i> Images are supplied for private research only at the Archivist's discretion. Please note that material may be unsuitable for copying on conservation grounds. Researchers who wish to publish material must seek copyright permission from the copyright owner.</p>		
LEM/1/3	<b>Item - Notebook</b>	April 1942-March 1949	1 volume
	<p><i>Creator:</i> Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i> Open Material is available subject to the usual terms and conditions of access to Archives and Local History collections.</p> <p><i>Conditions governing use:</i> Images are supplied for private research only at the Archivist's discretion. Please note that material may be unsuitable for copying on conservation grounds. Researchers who wish to publish material must seek copyright permission from the copyright owner.</p>		
LEM/1/4	<b>Item - Notebook</b>	April 1949-October 1952	1 volume
	<p><i>Creator:</i> Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i> Open Material is available subject to the usual terms and conditions of access to Archives and Local History collections.</p> <p><i>Conditions governing use:</i> Images are supplied for private research only at the Archivist's discretion. Please note that material may be unsuitable for copying on conservation grounds. Researchers who wish to publish material must seek copyright permission from the copyright owner.</p>		
LEM/1/5	<b>Item - Notebook</b>	September 1952-March 1956	1 volume
	<p><i>Creator:</i> Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i> Open</p>		

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LEM/1/6	<p><b>Item - Notebook</b></p> <p><i>Creator:</i></p> <p>Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i></p> <p>Open</p> <p>Material is available subject to the usual terms and conditions of access to Archives and Local History collections.</p> <p><i>Conditions governing use:</i></p> <p>Images are supplied for private research only at the Archivist's discretion. Please note that material may be unsuitable for copying on conservation grounds. Researchers who wish to publish material must seek copyright permission from the copyright owner.</p>	<p>April 1956- September 1962</p>	<p>1 volume</p>

## Series LEM/2: Scrapbooks

Creator: Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)

Date: 1931-1996 (creation)

Scope and content: These notebooks include pasted in concert programmes and newspaper cuttings.

Physical description: 7 volumes

Language of the material:

- English

Physical condition: Archives - Non-digital

Restrictions on access: Open

Material is available subject to the usual terms and conditions of access to Archives and Local History collections.

Conditions governing use: Images are supplied for private research only at the Archivist's discretion. Please note that material may be unsuitable for copying on conservation grounds. Researchers who wish to publish material must seek copyright permission from the copyright owner.

Publication status:

Published

### File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
LEM/2/1	<p><b>Item - Scrapbook</b></p> <p><i>Creator:</i></p> <p>Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i></p>	<p>1963</p>	<p>1 volume</p>

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LEM/2/2	<p><b>Item - Scrapbook</b> 1964 1 volume</p> <p><i>Creator:</i></p> <p>Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i></p> <p>Open Material is available subject to the usual terms and conditions of access to Archives and Local History collections.</p> <p><i>Conditions governing use:</i></p> <p>Images are supplied for private research only at the Archivist's discretion. Please note that material may be unsuitable for copying on conservation grounds. Researchers who wish to publish material must seek copyright permission from the copyright owner.</p>
LEM/2/3	<p><b>Item - Scrapbook</b> 1965 1 volume</p> <p><i>Creator:</i></p> <p>Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i></p> <p>Open Material is available subject to the usual terms and conditions of access to Archives and Local History collections.</p> <p><i>Conditions governing use:</i></p> <p>Images are supplied for private research only at the Archivist's discretion. Please note that material may be unsuitable for copying on conservation grounds. Researchers who wish to publish material must seek copyright permission from the copyright owner.</p>
LEM/2/4	<p><b>Item - Scrapbook</b> 1965-1969 1 volume</p> <p><i>Creator:</i></p> <p>Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i></p> <p>Open Material is available subject to the usual terms and conditions of access to Archives and Local History collections.</p> <p><i>Conditions governing use:</i></p> <p>Images are supplied for private research only at the Archivist's discretion. Please note that material may be unsuitable for copying on conservation grounds. Researchers who wish to publish material must seek copyright permission from the copyright owner.</p>
LEM/2/5	<p><b>Item - Scrapbook</b> 1970-1984 1 volume</p> <p><i>Creator:</i></p> <p>Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i></p> <p>Open</p>

	<p>Material is available subject to the usual terms and conditions of access to Archives and Local History collections.</p> <p><i>Conditions governing use:</i></p> <p>Images are supplied for private research only at the Archivist's discretion. Please note that material may be unsuitable for copying on conservation grounds. Researchers who wish to publish material must seek copyright permission from the copyright owner.</p>		
LEM/2/6	<b>Item - Scrapbook</b>	1931-1938	1 volume
	<p><i>Creator:</i></p> <p>Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Also includes a loose photograph of Iris Lemare.</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i></p> <p>Open Material is available subject to the usual terms and conditions of access to Archives and Local History collections.</p> <p><i>Conditions governing use:</i></p> <p>Images are supplied for private research only at the Archivist's discretion. Please note that material may be unsuitable for copying on conservation grounds. Researchers who wish to publish material must seek copyright permission from the copyright owner.</p>		
LEM/2/7	<b>Item - Scrapbook</b>	c.1958-1996	1 volume
	<p><i>Creator:</i></p> <p>Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i></p> <p>Open Material is available subject to the usual terms and conditions of access to Archives and Local History collections.</p> <p><i>Conditions governing use:</i></p> <p>Images are supplied for private research only at the Archivist's discretion. Please note that material may be unsuitable for copying on conservation grounds. Researchers who wish to publish material must seek copyright permission from the copyright owner.</p>		

### Series LEM/3: Certificates

Creator: Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)

Date: 31 May 1926-31 May 1929 (creation)

Scope and content: Includes certificates presented to Iris Lemare as part of her work, and two first prize certificates from the Kensington Musical Competition Festival for the Notting Barns Orchestra.

Physical description: 5 items

Language of the material:

- English

Physical condition: Archives - Non-digital

Restrictions on access: Open

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<p><u>Conditions governing use:</u> Images are supplied for private research only at the Archivist's discretion. Please note that material may be unsuitable for copying on conservation grounds. Researchers who wish to publish material must seek copyright permission from the copyright owner.</p> <p><u>Publication status:</u></p> <p>Published</p>			
File / item list			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
LEM/3/1	<p><b>Item - Royal College of Music Certificate of Proficiency</b></p> <p><i>Creator:</i></p> <p>Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>The certificate relates to her competent knowledge of harmony.</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i></p> <p>Open Material is available subject to the usual terms and conditions of access to Archives and Local History collections.</p> <p><i>Conditions governing use:</i></p> <p>Images are supplied for private research only at the Archivist's discretion. Please note that material may be unsuitable for copying on conservation grounds. Researchers who wish to publish material must seek copyright permission from the copyright owner.</p>	31 May 1926	1 item
LEM/3/2	<p><b>Item - Royal College of Music Certificate of Proficiency</b></p> <p><i>Creator:</i></p> <p>Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>The certificate relates to her admittance as an Associate of the Royal College of Music.</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i></p> <p>Open Material is available subject to the usual terms and conditions of access to Archives and Local History collections.</p> <p><i>Conditions governing use:</i></p> <p>Images are supplied for private research only at the Archivist's discretion. Please note that material may be unsuitable for copying on conservation grounds. Researchers who wish to publish material must seek copyright permission from the copyright owner.</p>	31 May 1929	1 item
LEM/3/3	<p><b>Item - Kensington Musical Competition Festival certificate</b></p> <p><i>Creator:</i></p> <p>Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>The certificate awards first prize to the Notting Barns Orchestra, and is signed on the reverse by the principal musicians.</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i></p>	November 1926	1 item

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LEM/3/4	<p><b>Item - The London Musical Competition Festival certificate of merit</b>      1927      1 item</p> <p><i>Creator:</i></p> <p>Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>The award is presented to Iris Lemare for conducting instrumental.</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i></p> <p>Open Material is available subject to the usual terms and conditions of access to Archives and Local History collections.</p> <p><i>Conditions governing use:</i></p> <p>Images are supplied for private research only at the Archivist's discretion. Please note that material may be unsuitable for copying on conservation grounds. Researchers who wish to publish material must seek copyright permission from the copyright owner.</p>
LEM/3/5	<p><b>Item - Kensington Musical Competition Festival certificate</b>      November 1927      1 item</p> <p><i>Creator:</i></p> <p>Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>The certificate awards first prize to the Notting Barns Orchestra, and is signed on the reverse by the principal musicians.</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i></p> <p>Open Material is available subject to the usual terms and conditions of access to Archives and Local History collections.</p> <p><i>Conditions governing use:</i></p> <p>Images are supplied for private research only at the Archivist's discretion. Please note that material may be unsuitable for copying on conservation grounds. Researchers who wish to publish material must seek copyright permission from the copyright owner.</p>
LEM/4	<p><b>Item - Invitation for Iris Lemare to conduct a gala concert of her choice</b>      1983      1 item</p> <p><i>Creator:</i></p> <p>Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>The gala concert was to held at the Darlington Civic Hall on the 10th April 1983, to coincide with her 80th birthday. The invitation is then signed by all those who wanted to work with her on it.</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i></p> <p>Open</p>

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LEM/5	<p><b>Item - Concert programme</b></p> <p><i>Creator:</i></p> <p>Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>The programme is for the Lemare concert at the University of York Lyons hall on 9th October 1970.</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i></p> <p>Open</p> <p>Material is available subject to the usual terms and conditions of access to Archives and Local History collections.</p> <p><i>Conditions governing use:</i></p> <p>Images are supplied for private research only at the Archivist's discretion. Please note that material may be unsuitable for copying on conservation grounds. Researchers who wish to publish material must seek copyright permission from the copyright owner.</p>	9 October 1970	1 item
LEM/6	<p><b>File - Folder entitled 'Biographical and historical'</b></p> <p><i>Creator:</i></p> <p>Lemare; Iris Margaret Elsie (1902-1997)</p> <p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Includes handwritten and typescript autobiographical notes, as well as concert programmes, press releases, information about the Lemare concerts. Also includes correspondence with the British Broadcasting Corporation, and a black and white photograph of Iris Lemare by John Vickers.</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i></p> <p>Open</p> <p>Material is available subject to the usual terms and conditions of access to Archives and Local History collections.</p> <p><i>Conditions governing use:</i></p> <p>Images are supplied for private research only at the Archivist's discretion. Please note that material may be unsuitable for copying on conservation grounds. Researchers who wish to publish material must seek copyright permission from the copyright owner.</p>	1951-1990s	2 bundles