

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR MUSIC IN CHURCH (\$)

(usually for purpose unspecified beyond “singing” or “music”)

n.d.: “The favor in which the choir was held was also manifested by several appropriations of money for their benefit, which were expended in the maintenance of singing-schools. The earlier musical instruction in this town was conducted solely to increase the efficiency of the choir, and all other styles of music were ignored. The town, in its capacity of parish, made frequent appropriations for this purpose, and, in accordance with precedent, [p. 268] all persons belonging to other religious denominations [than Congregational] were excused from paying any part of the money raised to meet this expense.” [NH/Rindge; Stearns 1875, pp. 267-268]

n.d. (probably late 18<sup>th</sup> c., early 19<sup>th</sup> c.): “For several years, the annual proceeds of the alewife fishery in Cochichuate brook were given to the singers, and hence received the name of the *singers*['] *fish privilege*.” [MA/Framingham; Temple 1887, p. 338]

n.d. (probably late 18<sup>th</sup> c., early 19<sup>th</sup> c.): “It should be added, in justice to our Choir, that, sustained as it has ever been by the patronage of the Society, it has always been respectable.... Money has been appropriated by the Society for the support of a singing school, commonly as often as once in two or three years.” [MA/Northborough; Allen 1880, p. 27 (3<sup>rd</sup> numbering, a sermon published in 1842)]

n.d. (ca. 1787-1887): “For one hundred years an interest in the subject [of church music] and a commendable pride in home talent has been manifested by the town, and later by the parish, by frequent and liberal appropriations ‘for the encouragement of singing,’ and schools of instruction under efficient teachers have been numerous.” [MA/Ashburnham; Stearns 1887, p. 327]

1790, 12 April: “The church on April 12, 1790, ‘voted and granted 8 pounds for the revival of singing.’” [MA/Wilbraham; Merrick 1964, p. 21]

1792 + 1796 + 1799 + 1807: “The town gave to promote singing \$13.33 in 1792; \$20 in 1796; \$50 in 1799 and \$80 in 1807.” [MA/Hadley; Judd 1863, p. 409]

1792, 2 April + 1808, 9 May: “April 2, 1792: ‘Voted to give ten pounds for the encouragement of singing for the year ensuing.’ This is the first vote of the kind found in our records. It was to pay a teacher. No one received money for singing. It was deemed a privilege to aid in this part of public worship; and is it not a privilege? ... [new paragraph] May 9, 1808: Voted ‘eighty dollars for the encouragement of the singing.’” [MA/Medford; Brooks 1855, pp. 247-248]

1793, 14 March + 1796, 25 January + 1802, 3 March + 1807, 5 March: “March 14, 1793 – Voted not to grant any money to encourage singing in the precinct. ... March 14, 1793 an article on the warrant ‘To see if the precinct will grant any money to encourage the singing in the precinct – or to take any other method that they shall think proper.[?]’ It was first voted to pass over the article – then voted to reconsider ‘so far as to choose a committee on

the subject matter of the singing and to draw up a subscription paper for the same.' ... Jan. 25, 1796 – Voted not to raise any money for the support of singing. ... March 3, 1802 – Voted that the standing committee be directed to lay out the money raised for the support of singing according to their best judgement and benefit of the precinct. ... March 5, 1807 – Voted the sum of thirty dollars be assessed for the support of singing in public worship and that Walter Walker and Luke Potter be a committee for laying out the grant for singing.” [MA/North Brookfield; Fiske notes]

“December 17, 1793. Voted ‘To raise the sum of six pounds for the encouragement of singing the year ensuing.’” [MA/Greenfield; Thompson 1904, vol. I, p. 291]

1796 – see 1792

1796, 25 January – see 1793, 14 March

1797, 24 October: “...in October 1797, the following paper was drawn up: [new paragraph] ‘Sensible that it is the indispensable duty of all to be ready and cheerful to support the public worship of God in its primitive order & beauty: and sensible that singing the praises of God with musical harmony & decency is a pleasant & important branch of public worship enforced by divine authority & viewing it as hard & unequal that those who devote their time & talents to render themselves decent as the public organs of a worshipping assembly should be obliged to pay the expense of those necessary acquirements, we the subscribers do mutually covenant & bind ourselves in the manner following: [new paragraph] 1st. That we will for the encouragement and promotion of singing, pay the sums annexed to our several hands in cash or grain to a committee hereafter to be chosen by the subscribers for the disposal of the same. [new paragraph] 2nd. That a meeting of the subscribers shall be holden on Monday the 6th day of Novem. next at 5 o’clock P. M. at the present dwelling house of Justus Holley [chorister in Dorset] in this town for the purpose following—1st to choose a moderator of said meeting. 2. To choose by ballot a committee as above mentioned to dispose of the money raised by this instrument for the promotion of singing in public worship in this place, to **procure a singing master & books for the use of a singing school** if judged necessary. 3rd to see if the subscribers will adopt any other measures for a more uniform & permanent encouragement of singing [p. 103] in this place. In testimony of the above agreement we hereunto subscribe our names. Dorset, Oct. 24, 1797 [2-column list of 62 names (including Justus Holley + B. B. Downs; see I 1797) + sums (ranging from 1 to 9s., + a few “25c”), smaller type] ... [new paragraph, regular type:] We the subscribers bind ourselves by the within written instrument provided the master employed to [p. 104] instruct in singing do not belong to the United Society of Dorset and Rupert but is procured from abroad— [2-column list of 15 names + sums (ranging from 1s, 6d to 10s, + a couple “33c”), smaller type] ... [new paragraph, regular type:] Errors excepted the subscription seems to amt. to [various figures, smaller type:] ... £16. 4. 6 N. E. Currency” [VT/Dorset, Rupert; Humphrey and Lee 1924, pp. 102-104]

ca. 1798: “Five years later [ca. 1798] the town voted its approval of a contribution to be taken in church on Thanksgiving day by four specified persons, the proceeds to be placed in the hands of the selectmen to be delivered to ‘the Society of Singers when they Shall be

under the necessary Regulations to receive the same.” [MA/Sturbridge; Haynes 1910, p. 60]

“1799. It was put to vote in the Precinct, whether any assistance should be granted for the encouragement of singing, and it passed in the affirmative, and fifty dollars were granted under charge of a committee.” [MA/Arlington; Cutter 1880, p. 109]

1799 – see 1792

1799, 7 October: “At a Legal meeting of the Inhabitants of Weston Oct<sup>r</sup>. 7<sup>th</sup>. 1799 being Assembled at the publick meeting house in Said Town for the purpose[s] hereafter mentioned viz[.] ... 7<sup>th</sup>. To hear the Petition of John Warren & others and act thereon relative to granting a Sum of money for the encouraging improvement in Singing &c— ... [p. 486] ... 9<sup>th</sup>. on the Petition of John Warren & others relative to the Encouraging the Art of Singing Voted to grant Fifty Dollars for that Purpose— ” [MA/Weston; Weston 1893, pp. 485, 486]

after 1799: “For many years [after 1799]...an article was inserted in each March meeting warrant to see what sum of money the town would raise for singing. Sometimes no action was taken; when any sum was voted, it was usually \$30, but occasionally amounted to \$75, or \$80. One year the record runs, ‘Voted to raise \$75 for singing, to be appropriated by the Singing Society.’ Another year, ‘Voted to raise ’80 for the support and encouragement of singing the present year.’ It was evidently the design to stimulate and assist individual effort.” [MA/Hubbardston; Stowe 1881, p. 82]

“In 1800, \$30 was granted ‘for the support of psalmody,’ and Solomon Shaw was appointed committee to spend the money.” [MA/Palmer; Temple 1889, p. 211]

1800, 3 March: “Appropriations [at annual town meeting]: \$400 for [Rev.] Mr. [Thomas] Mason’s salary; \$300 for support of schools; \$300 for support of the poor; \$400 for making and repairing highways; \$50 for the support of singing.” [MA/Northfield; Temple & Sheldon 1875, p. 354]

1801-1803 + 1807-1808: “In this town the singers sat separate from the congregation, forming a choir, at a very early date; and here, first in the region, money was raised to encourage the cultivation of music. In 1801, the proposition to appropriate money for the encouragement of music, was strongly opposed at town meeting by some who considered it not only a waste of money, but as likely to introduce innovations dangerous to the spirit of religious worship. But they were so severely castigated in the ‘New Year’s Gift’ [?], that no opposition was ever made afterwards; and in 1802, \$50 were appropriated, to be expended under the direction of B. Champney, Benj. Williams and the Selectmen. In 1803, 1807 and 1808, forty and fifty dollars were appropriated.” [NH/New Ipswich; Kidder 1852, p. 262]

1802, 3 March – see 1793, 14 March

1802, 4 October: "At a Legal meeting of the Inhabitants of Weston Oct<sup>r</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup>. 1802 being Assembled at the Publick Meeting-House for the following Purposes viz[.] — ... [p. 516] ... 13<sup>th</sup>. To know the minds of the town, wheather they will grant a sum of money that may be thought necessary for the purpus of encourageing those that are disposed to assist the singing in the publick meeting house or act any thing to the purpus. ... [p. 517] ... 11<sup>th</sup>. Voted that Sixty Dollars are here by granted for the encouragement of Singing & that Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Nathan Upham, Josiah Hastings Joseph Russell Alpheus Biglow & Nathan Warren to Conduct the expenditure thereof" [MA/Weston; Weston 1893, pp. 515, 516, 517]

1803 and "for several succeeding years": "This year [1803] and for several succeeding years the town raised money, from \$20 to \$60, 'for the encouragement of singing,' and appointed committees to expend the same." [MA/Greenfield; Thompson 1904, vol. I, p. 297]

"December 12, 1803 (vol. ii, p. 494 [of church records?]): 'Voted, to do something to incourage Church music in this place.' Then, 'Voted, that the sum of Fifty Dollars be assessed and paid by the inhabitants of this Town for the incouragement of Church Music.' Then, 'Voted to choose a Committee to take from the Treasury and lay out the fifty dollars to the best advantage to incourage singing—and made choice of Sam'l Hoar, Esq., Thos. Wheeler, Capt. Abner Mather, Elij. Fisk and Eleazer Brooks, Jr.'" [MA/Lincoln; Lincoln 1905, p. 65n]

1804: "In this year thirty dollars were drawn for the purpose of encouraging singing." [MA/Arlington; Cutter 1880, p. 111]

"In 1804, the town magnanimously appropriated twenty-five dollars 'to the present singers, on condition they sing well and still continue to sing to the Edification of the Inhabitants of sd Town' ..." [MA/Ludlow; Noon 1912, p. 56]

1805: "Fifty dollars were appropriated this year for the encouragement of singing." [MA/Arlington; Cutter 1880, p. 113]

1805-1837: "The first appropriation of money by the Parish for music was in 1805. A small sum was then given for the expenses of the bass-viol. In 1818 the assessors were authorized to draw for the singers, not to exceed thirty dollars. The next year, fifteen dollars was voted. Difficulty arising about this time, the sum of five dollars, the next year, was scarcely voted, to save the danger that the singers would leave their seats. In 1826 the money drawn for them was not to exceed twenty dollars. In 1829 fifty dollars was appropriated. Since 1837, \$100 has been annually voted." [MA/Andover; Andover 1859, p. 57]

1807: "In this year sixty dollars were appropriated by the Parish for the benefit of the singing society." [MA/Arlington; Cutter 1880, p. 114]

1807 – see 1792

1807, 5 March – see 1793, 14 March

1807-1808 – see 1801-1803

1808, 9 May – see 1792, 2 April

1814 + 1832 + 1839 + 1925: “In 1814, Miss Abigail Dudley died, leaving a bequest of \$51.00 to be used as thought best by the minister ([Ezra] Ripley) and deacons (who handled the expenses of the church, now that they were not busy lining out psalms!). Thus, through Ezra Ripley’s and the deacons’ interest in music, the Abigail Dudley Singing Fund was born: [indented, smaller type:] The Dudley Fund, 1814, established by the Minister and deacons for the purpose of promoting sacred music from a legacy bequeathed to the church by the will of Miss Abigail Dudley, original amount \$51.00 placed in the hands of Hon. D. Shattuck. \$124.45 in 1832, ‘Not to be appropriated to the above purpose until it produces an income of \$60 annually... The annual contribution at Thanks Giving is to be appropriated to the increase of this fund.’ [p. 181; not indented, regular type:] This was later amended: [indented, smaller type:] Whereas the appropriation (sic) has become disagreeable to the religious society for whose benefit it was designed...the undersigned...do agree to alter and change the appropriation (to) until the principal shall amount to Two Hundred Twenty Dollars, and that thence forward the interest shall be annually applied to the purchase and repairs of musical instruments (and) to be used by the singing choir of this society [are last 2 words in parentheses, presumably added by Billings, actually misleading?]. [not indented, regular type:] Due to the provisions of the fund, the interest could not be used until the principal amounted to \$220, so we do not hear from this fund again until 1839, when it becomes a valuable source of musical information from that year until the final entry in 1925.” [MA/Concord; Billings 1985, pp. 180-181]

1815: “The singing school became so popular that an appropriation of \$50 was made in 1815 to ‘enco[u]rage the Singing,’ [footnote: “Town Rec., II, 319.”]....” [MA/Walpole; De Lue 1925, p. 281]

“1816. \$100 was appropriated for the purpose of singing.” [MA/Chelmsford; Waters 1917, p. 682]

1822-1824: “...for at least three years, they [the parish] voted money for the singers’ use—ten dollars for the year in 1822 and 1823, five dollars in 1824.” [MA/South Hingham; Robinson 1980, p. 77]

1827: “We can find but one other vote in reference to sacred music, and that was an appropriation of \$30 for this purpose, which was made in 1827. Since then the support of singing has been left to private efforts and contributions.” [MA/Wenham; Allen 1860, p. 201]

1831: “A subscription for the support of singing and purchase of music books was circulated in 1831.” [NH/Keene; Proper 1973, p. 41]

1832 – see 1814

1832-1894: "...the remarkable fact revealed in the [church] records is the small amount paid for the support of the service of song in the early days of this period, the slow but steady increase in the annual outlay for this purpose, and the contrast between the early and the latest appropriations. While the minister's salary has grown to be nine times as large in 1895 as it was in 1825, the cost of the music has increased from \$15 to \$1750 per annum.\* [footnote, bottom of page:] \*On January 17, 1832, it was voted 'to appropriate \$15 to aid the singing in this society.' Three years later \$50 were appropriated—this time for hiring an instructor—while the church added \$40 from money in its treasury for the same object. In January, 1837, the amount was \$75, and a bill that has been preserved explains it: 'Congregational society, to Elisha Steele, Dr. To services in the year 1837 to promote the Science of Sacred Music: \$75.00.' In 1842 the amount had reached \$100, and in 1852 it was \$200, 'to be divided between the chorister and orchestra, as they may see fit.' And so the record goes on. For 1874—the last year spent in the fourth church edifice—the cost of the music was \$855; for 1884 it was \$1360, and for 1894, \$1750." [CT/Waterbury; Anderson 1896, vol. III, p. 583 + n]

1839 – see 1814

1840 and "later": "In 1840 the practice was begun of raising \$50 by subscription to com- [p. 61] pensate 'the leader of the Singers'; later, appropriations were made for this purpose among the regular parish expenses. For many years this service was rendered by Charles Fuller." [MA/Sturbridge; Haynes 1910, pp. 60-61]

1866, 12 December + 1867: "An organ, built by E. & G. G. Hook[,] was added to the church in 1867, at a cost of \$2,600 for the organ, and \$321 for fixtures for the same,--total, \$2,921. The funds for the same were raised as follows: 1st, by a levee, Dec. 12, 1866, from which was realized \$455; 2d, \$1,040 received from former residents and members of the society, who had removed from town; 3d, \$1,344.50 from a subscription of the members of the society and others in town favorable to the enterprise; 4th, from an organ concert in dedication of the organ, \$60; and accrued interest on money received on deposit, \$30,--total \$2,929.50." [NH/Peterborough; Smith 1876, p. 95]

1867 – see 1866, 12 December

1925 – see 1814