Agnes Giesbrecht Choral Music Scholarship

Agnes Margaret (Braun) Giesbrecht was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the third of 11 children of Jacob J. and Sara Braun. Her parents were of the German-Russian Mennonite background, having left Russia in the mid 1920s. Agnes was born 2 months after her parents’ arrival in Canada.

Agnes acquired some of the best of that surrogate, antecedent Slavic soul, namely her love for and expertise in various needlecraft arts, highlighted by her particular skills in “tatting” (an example of which is seen in the background.) In addition, she developed a love of singing by way of her rich, but not dominating, alto voice. Agnes originally developed her voice in her high school years in Gretna, MB. She continued her choral pursuits in various mixed and ladies’ church and community choirs.

Agnes had developed a close friendship with Professor Helen Martens, who became the first head of the Music Department at Grebel. These connections, as well as their children’s attendance at the College and a grandson’s affiliation with the Chapel Choir there, make this award a “natural fit” for a modest memorial of Agnes’ life and musical interests.

May the harmonies giving rise to this family effort ring on in the forms loved by the person in whose memory it is established.

For more information contact:
Conrad Grebel University College
140 Westmount Rd. North,
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G6
519-885-0220
grebel.uwaterloo.ca