



# **Velvet Fist**

## **(VF)**

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**VF**

**Velvet Fist**

**1983-2013**

**Name of Creator:** Velvet Fist

**Extent:** 1 box, 1 portfolio folder

**Administrative/Biographical History:** Velvet Fist was a socialist feminist women's accapella choir active in London 1983 to 2013. The choir originated in an arts project by the communist party – a mixed radical choir named Artery Choir, founded in 1983 along with several other communist arts groups, such as Artery Band. In 1990 the choir became a women only choir and changed their name to 'Velvet Fist' inspired by the Peggy Seeger song 'Carry Greenham Home' and the role of women in the Greenham Common protests. The choir had around 12 members at any one time and sang and performed political songs for peace, socialism, feminism and human rights at gigs and campaigning events in London for individuals, national and international causes. The archive was collected primarily by choir member Tara Tierney who passed the collection to Amelia Taylor in 2003, she in turn passed the collection to Gaynor Kyffin in 2012. In 2013 the choir folded and performed their last gig for the Older Feminist Network in winter 2013.

**Custodial History:** Donated by Rosa Kurowska Kyffin on behalf of the Velvet Fist Collective 6 June 2016.

**Scope and Content:**

Papers of Artery Choir and Velvet Fist collected by members of the choir (1983-2013), including: leaflets, ephemera and photographs regarding Velvet Fist performances, choir minutes and correspondence, music scores and lyrics.

**System of Arrangement:** No further arrangement required.

**Language/scripts of material:**

English

**Access conditions:**

OPEN

**Copying conditions:**

Photocopying, scanning and digital photography (without flash) is permitted for research purposes on completion of the Library's Copyright Declaration form and with respect to current UK copyright law.

**Finding Aids:**

Adlib catalogue and handlist available in researcher's area.

**Rules and Conventions:**

Compiled in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997.

<b>VF</b>	<b>Velvet Fist Archive</b>	<b>1983 – 2013</b>
	<p>Papers of Artery Choir and Velvet Fist collected by members of the choir (1983-2013). Includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leaflets, ephemera and photographs regarding Velvet Fist performances.</li> <li>- Choir minutes and correspondence.</li> <li>- Music scores and lyrics.</li> </ul> <p><b>OPEN</b></p>	
<b>VF/1</b>	<b>Media and Writing</b>	<b>1993-2013</b>
	<p>Papers regarding publicity recieved and created by Velvet Fist, (1993-2013). Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extracts from the published diaries of Tony Benn MP regarding Velvet Fist, (1993-1998).</li> <li>- Programmes and writing collections from the annual choir workshops on the Isle of Wight, (1996-2011).</li> <li>- Newspaper cuttings regarding Velvet Fist activities, with related correspondence and ephemera, (1996-2011)</li> <li>- Correspondence, (1994-2013)</li> <li>- Ephemera and sheet music relating to the cassette tape 'Green and Purple' [Artery Choir] and the CD, 'Pulling no Punches', (c.1990-1998)</li> <li>- VHS: 'Everything Can Be Changed', Cecil Sharp House, (17 July 2004)</li> <li>- VHS: 'Pulling no Punches Launch', (12 July 1998).</li> </ul> <p><b>OPEN</b></p>	
<b>VF/2</b>	<b>Photographs</b>	<b>1988-2011</b>
	<p>Photographs of Artery Choir and Velvet Fist performances and social occasions, (1988-2011)</p> <p><b>OPEN</b></p>	
<b>VF/2/1</b>	<b>Moscow</b>	<b>1988</b>
	<p>Twenty one black and white photographs of Artery Choir with the London Region Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament visiting the Soviet Union as guests of the Moscow [Reac?] Committee, (21 - 28 February 1988).</p> <p><b>OPEN</b></p>	

<b>VF/2/2</b>	<b>Peace Pagoda, Battersea</b>	<b>1992</b>
	Eleven colour photographs of Velvet Fist warming up and singing at the Battersea Park Peace Pagoda, (3 May 1992). <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/2/3</b>	<b>The Mill</b>	<b>1992</b>
	Twenty-Seven colour photographs of Velvet Fist performing at The Mill, (1992). <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/2/4</b>	<b>NAPO Conference</b>	<b>1992</b>
	Three colour photographs of Velvet Fist performing at the National Association of Probation Officers Annual Conference, (10 October 1992). <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/2/5</b>	<b>Busking for Big Issue</b>	<b>1993</b>
	Five colour photographs of Velvet Fist busking in aid of the publication Big Issue, in Covent Garden, (c.1993). <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/2/6</b>	<b>Jane's House and The Mill</b>	<b>1993-1995</b>
	Nineteen colour photographs collated by choir member 'Jane' of Velvet Fist performing at her house and at The Mill (c.1993-1995). <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/2/7</b>	<b>Street Music Festival</b>	<b>1994</b>
	Colour photograph collage of Velvet Fist performing at the 12th Street Festival, (16-17 July 1994). <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/2/8</b>	<b>Stroud Street Music Festival</b>	<b>1995</b>
	Eight colour photographs of Velvet Fist performing at the Stroud Street Music Festival, (c.1995). <b>OPEN</b>	

<b>VF/2/9</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>(n.d.)</b>
	Fifteen colour photographs of Velvet Fist performing and choir members at various events, (n.d.). <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/2/10</b>	<b>Burston School Strike</b>	<b>1995</b>
	Seven colour photographs of Velvet Fist performing at the Burston School Strike, (c.1995). <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/2/11</b>	<b>The Clockhouse</b>	<b>(n.d.)</b>
	Seven colour photographs of Velvet Fist performing with the London Gay Men's Chorus at the Clockhouse, Croydon, (n.d.). <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/2/12</b>	<b>OFN Winter Solstice</b>	<b>2011</b>
	Three colour photographs of Velvet Fist performing at OFN Winter Solstice, (10 December 2011). <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/2/13</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>(n.d.)</b>
	Eighteen colour photographs of Velvet Fist performing at various locations, (n.d.) <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/3</b>	<b>Leaflets</b>	<b>1990-2013</b>
	Ephemera relating to venues and events at which Velvet Fist performed, (1990-2013). <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/3/1</b>	<b>Flyers, Leaflets and Programmes</b>	<b>1990-2013</b>
	Flyers, leaflets and programmes for events which featured Velvet Fist performances, (1990-2013) <b>OPEN</b>	

<b>VF/3/2</b>	<b>Souvenir Programmes</b>	<b>1992-2011</b>
	Souvenir programmes for events and festivals which featured Velvet Fist performances, (1992-2011). <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/3/3</b>	<b>Street Festival Programmes</b>	<b>1995-2013</b>
	Souvenir programmes for street festivals which featured Velvet Fist performances, (1995-2013). <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/3/4</b>	<b>Southbank Centre and Roundhouse Performances</b>	<b>1995-2013</b>
	Programmes, newspaper cuttings and leaflets for events at the Southbank Centre and the Roundhouse which featured Velvet Fist performances, (2001-2011). <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/3/5</b>	<b>Badge and Performers Passes</b>	<b>1996-1998</b>
	Performers passes and a badge from events which featured Velvet Fist performances,(c.1996-1998). <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/4</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>1988-2003</b>
	Minutes of Velvet Fist, (1988-2003) <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/5</b>	<b>Music, Tara Tierney</b>	<b>c.1988-2003</b>
	Personal Music collection of Tara Tierney (1945-2003) including Velvet Fist arrangements and other related music collected during time with choir, (c.1988-2003) <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/6</b>	<b>Music, Jane Hailstone</b>	<b>(n.d.)</b>
	Music of Velvet Fist choir member Jane Hailstone including several arrangements of her mother's poetry, (n.d.) <b>OPEN</b>	

<b>VF/7</b>	<b>Music and Papers, Margaret Fielder</b>	<b>1988-2010</b>
	Papers of Velvet Fist choir member Margaret Fielder, including letters, leaflets and photos as well as her personal music collection with Velvet Fist arrangements, (c.1988-2010) <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/8</b>	<b>Scrapbook, Tara Tierney</b>	<b>1987-1992</b>
	Scrapbook originally labelled, 'Artery Choir/Velvet Fist Scrapbook 1987-' including ephemera and photographs collected by Velvet Fist choir member, Tara Tierney, (1987-1992). <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>VF/9</b>	<b>Portfolio: 'Pulling no Punches' Display</b>	<b>1998</b>
	Portfolio case holding display materials from the 'Pulling no Punches' CD launch. The material were prepared by Tara Tierney and include flyers, cards, correspondence and photographs, (12 June 1998). <b>OPEN</b>	