



Fanny and William Evans, a childless couple, are remembered in a number of lectureships, scholarships, fellowships and awards funded by a munificent legacy to the University of Otago.

William Evans was born at Blue Spur, near Lawrence, on 17 July 1874, the son of William Evans, a miner and farmer, and Margaret Hall. He was educated at Otago Boys' High School and Otago University, where he was a clinical surgery prizeman, and graduated MRCS in England in 1897, and later FRCSE.

After two years working in London hospitals he returned to Dunedin to set up a practice in High Street, and worked in various honorary roles – physician at the hospital, police surgeon, surgeon to the Forbury Park Trotting Club and Otago Wrestling Club. He was also active in rugby, boxing, shooting, swimming, the Volunteers, Masonic Lodge and Royal Lifesaving Society.

In 1902 he married Fanny Monk who was born in Stenhouse, England, the daughter of William Henry Monk, a government employee and Thirza Buller. Fanny had come out from England a few years before, and had many interests including wood-carving, and making furniture carved in relief.

They both loved music, and took part in many Dunedin musical societies. Fanny had a fine contralto voice and sang with the Choral Society for many years. She was on the committees of the Choral Society, Orchestral Society and Dunedin Male Voice Choir. William was a vice-president of the Royal Male Choir, Orchestral Society and Dunedin Tramways Band.

When William died on 2 September 1943 he left a large bequest to the university, stipulating that it should be used (although not exclusively) for the support of music, drama, the Hocken Library, and visitors to the university; and that there should be at least one scholarship bearing Fanny's name.

Fanny lived until 2 July 1971 and saw the Fanny Evans Scholarship being used to enable post-graduate music students to study overseas. More recently it has been used to give older women with family commitments the chance of part-time postgraduate study. William Evan's name was given to three music lectureships, and the William Evans Visiting Fellowship.

Both William and Fanny are buried in Dunedin's Northern Cemetery, along with William's mother and father, and two sisters who died at an early age.

Prepared by the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand from information in *Southern People – a Dictionary of Otago Southland Biography*.