

Concordia University Library, Special Collections

Finding Aid - Russell (Russ) Dufort fonds (F020)

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Language of description: English

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Russell (Russ) Dufort fonds

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch	3
Scope and content	4
Arrangement	4
Notes	4
Access points	5

Summary information

Repository:	Concordia University Library, Special Collections
Title:	Russell (Russ) Dufort fonds
ID:	F020
Date:	[195-] ; [199-] (date of creation)
Physical description:	104 cm of textual records ca. 35 objects 4 photographs 1 wooden box
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Russell (Russ) Dufort was born in 1923. His musical career began as a teenager when he played drums with The Stardusters, a local big band. Later, Dufort played with the renowned Johnny Holmes Orchestra. He also sometimes played as part of Oscar Peterson's trio. He was part of an early recording session at R.C.A. Victor. During World War II, Dufort was a drummer with the Royal Canadian Air Force, in Ottawa, Saskatoon, and Vancouver. He played drums at the Bombing & Gunnery School in Dafoe Saskatchewan.

Dufort left the Johnny Holmes Orchestra when family obligations required him to get a more steady job, first at Canadian Pacific, then at Canadair Limited, where he worked for over 40 years. He continued to play on weekends, first with Montreal musician Bud Hayward, and then forming his own quintet, the Russ Dufort Orchestra. A significant moment in his career was leading a band which played between sets at a Duke Ellington concert in the 1960s.

Dufort was present at the inauguration of the Oscar Peterson Concert Hall at Concordia University, where he was reunited with his old friend Oscar Peterson. Dufort became an honorary lifetime member of the Montreal Musician's Guild in 2003.

Dufort continued to play drums with visiting musicians at the nursing home in which he resided. He passed away in Pointe-Claire, Quebec, on May 23, 2017.

Scope and content

The Fonds contains materials documenting the career of drummer Russell (Russ) Dufort. It includes materials related to Dufort's time with the Johnny Holmes Orchestra, the Stardusters, and the Royal Canadian Airforce band. The fonds also includes arrangements purchased from Russell Dufort from the Escorts.

The fonds is composed of annotated scores, set lists, photographs, correspondence, newspaper clippings, a business card, a membership card, swizzle sticks from Montreal clubs, and a wooden box used by the Escorts to transport their music, among other materials.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on the content of the fonds.

Immediate source of acquisition

Materials were donated by John Dufort, son of Russell (Russ) Dufort, June 28, 2016.

Arrangement

Original order of the materials has been maintained. Scores were organized by instrument by the creator.

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Finding aids

Box listings available.

Accruals

Further accruals expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Minimal
- **Status description:** Final
- **Rights:** Copyright belongs to the creator(s).

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Object (documentary form)
- Jazz (subject)