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GORDON WALLIS

NOVEMBER 2015

ELIZABETH SEITZ

Biographical Sketch: Gordon C. Wallis was born in Dodsland, Saskatchewan on July 7, 1917. Wallis earned an A.T.C.M. Associate - Special Diploma (Piano) in 1934 from the Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto and from 1935 to 1938 gave piano lessons to students in several towns in Saskatchewan. Wallis served overseas with the Canadian army during World War II obtaining an honorable discharge in 1945. In 1946 Wallis joined the piano faculty of the Hambourg Conservatory of Music in Toronto where he taught until 1951. Wallis was organist and choirleader at St. Clair Baptist Church in Toronto, Royal York Road United Church, Knox Presbyterian Church in Oakville and at the High Park Avenue United Church in Toronto from 1948 to 1961 while from 1952 to 1965 he also taught lessons privately. From 1960 to 1962 Wallis was Supervisor of Music for Markham (Ontario) Public Schools and after a few years doing accompaniment work for solo singers was appointed, in August 1966, Assistant Director of the Regina Conservatory (of Music) at the University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus. Wallis' diplomas in music include a Licentiate from the Royal Schools of Music (L.R.S.M.) obtained in 1940, a Bachelor's degree in Music from the University of Toronto in 1948, a Licentiate from Trinity College London (L.T.C.L.) in 1954, an Associate degree from the Canadian College of Organists (A.C.C.O.) obtained in 1956; an Associate degree from the American Guild of Organists (A.A.G.O.) in 1957 and a Choir Master "A" degree in 1958, also from the American Guild of Organists.

A year before he died, Wallis set up the Gordon C. Wallis Piano Competition Program for students between the ages of 15 and 21. The competition is held every two years and is administered by the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association with the top prize being \$5,000.00 and an engagement with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras as a guest artist. Wallis was very heavily involved with the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association Syllabus Music Selection Committee and adjudicated the festivals throughout Canada. Several scholarships have also been established in his name, among them the Gordon C. Wallis Memorial Intermediate Beethoven Scholarship (awarding \$200); the Gordon C. Wallis Memorial Senior Beethoven Scholarship (awarding \$300); and the Wallis Memorial Award (awarding \$500). In addition to teaching piano, opera was also very important to Wallis and the Gordon Wallis Opera Resource Centre is located at Darke Hall. This open Resource Centre is made up of his extensive personal collection of material related to opera and includes recordings and operatic scores, libretti, documents, books, periodicals and programmes from major opera houses all over the world.

Wallis was made an Honorary Life Member of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association for his enduring commitment to music and singing. Wallis passed away in July 1999.

Elizabeth Seitz, 2015

Sources: <http://www.srmta.com/honorary-life-members.html>
<http://search.proquest.com/docview/349690087/fulltext/D9CCF5BC13564F9EPQ/5?accountid=13480>
<http://search.proquest.com/docview/349674032/E3A1513ACACF4516PQ/4?accountid=13480>
<http://www.srmta.com/gordon-c-wallis.html>, November 2015

Scope and Content: This collection is comprised of approximately 2 centimetres of material and ranges in date from 1966 to 1986 with the predominant date of material being from 1962 to 1972.

Future Accruals: Future accruals are not expected.

Access Restrictions: There are no access restrictions to this collection.

Related Accessions: Related accessions may be found in 94-49.

Note on Arrangement: Newspaper clippings were photocopied for preservation purposes.

Box 1	Organ File of Gordon C. Wallis, Assistant Director Conservatory of Music	
1	Correspondence and information on types of Organs Western Board [of Music] re: Explorations (The New Study Books for Piano) compiled by Dorothy Bee and Gordon C. Wallis	1966 – 1985
2	Correspondence Workshops – Dorothy Bee and Gordon Wallis	1969 – 1972
3	Correspondence	1969 – 1972