

P221- John Doerr Fonds

1973-2018 (predominant dates 1976-1986)

77.2 cm of textual records, graphic materials, and other document types.

Biographical sketch: John W. Doerr (1949-), son of Mervin Doerr and Dorothy Ward, born in Stratford, Ontario, is a musician and a member of CANO musique and one of the founders of Majoma music.

While in high school, John was a member of a number of musical groups, performing on bass and trombone. The musical repertoire ranged from the Beatles, Rolling Stones, to Herb Alpert & the Tijuana Brass. After graduating from York University with a degree in Psychology and one in 'Beaux-Arts' with a specialisation in Music, John moved to Sudbury to join the the first iteration of Cano Musique. He had met Rachel Paiement & David Burt while playing in Morgan, a popular lounge band in Ontario. They introduced him to André Paiement, whose vision of a musical co-operative was enough for John to make the move to Sudbury.

The three, with Marcel Aymar and André Paiement then founded CANO musique, also a cooperative. As a member, Doerr played trombone, the electric bass and synthesizer. He also composed and arranged music for the group. A few of his compositions include "En Mouvement," part of a collective composition "Au nord de notre vie," "Partons" (with lyrics by M. Aymar and M. Kendel), and "Mime Artist" (with lyrics by Aymar and Kendel).

John took on the accounting duties of the group when André Paiement died in Jan, 1978. Along with Gary McGroarty, Doerr became the contact person for the financial aspects of the different services offered by the group. In that capacity he accumulated and compiled various financial records and helped prepare tenders for different contracts such as for the production of albums, recordings, music, or for touring.

In 1982, John Doerr with Marcel Aymar (under CANO Productions) composed music themes for TV programs such as *Great Movies* (CityTV), *Légalement parlant* (TFO), and *Transit 30/50* (TFO & NFB).

In 1988, Doerr, with Aymar and Marc Cholette, producer and composer, founded Majoma music. "Majoma specializes in the composition and production of music for television and films." They have produced music for sports: *Hockey Night In Canada* (CBC), the CBC Olympics coverage, and CBC Corporate Sports package. For television: TFO *Kids Adventure*, *Marketplace* and *The National* (CBC), and also for movies: *Le Secret de Jérôme* (TVA/NFB), *The Stork Derby* (CTV), and *Metallos Blues* (NFB).

The group was officially active from 1975-1985. CANO has since performed at different events (La Nuit sur l'étang, Northern Light Festival Boréal), and has published a

compilation of its albums. John Doerr still participates at different special events and also joins Marcel Aymar at many of his concerts.

John Doerr lives in Toronto with his wife Jocelyne.

Scope and content: John Doerr Fonds documents Doerr's professional life as a musician, composer, music producer, and administrator. The completeness of the files not only highlights Doerr's accomplishments and activities, but they also depict the path of the group CANO musique.

Composed of the files of the various administrators of CANO musique, namely John Doerr, André Paiement and Gary McGroarty, the files cover the legal aspect of managing a music group and its financial administration. The files thus deal with promotion, production of concerts and LPs, and the creation of music and lyrics, and range from Doerr's early involvement with the group CANO musique to the group's dissolution and the subsequent founding of Majoma Music.

John Doerr Fonds not only attests to his different roles, creations, and achievements within CANO musique but it also provides an overview of the different administrative and managerial aspects of a music group in 1975-1985. Moreover, the fonds documents the different processes, procedures, and interactions with records companies, as well as marketing and promotional strategies in those years.

John Doerr's role as administrator of CANO's financial records is well documented in the fonds. Doerr took over the responsibility of the accounts after André Paiement's passing, at which time the records of 1975-1978 were transferred to him.

The financial records consist mostly of bank statements, budgets, expenditures, expenses and incomes, correspondence, and monthly royalty statements. The files provide insight into the operating cost for concerts and touring, as well as the cost associated with activities such as recording, rehearsals, buying instruments, and insurance payments. The files also attest to their organising and functioning as a cooperative. While the monthly statements for the royalties list each song and the amount received for each, it also indicates the popularity of their songs in a specific time frame. Some of the correspondence informs us on the contracts and agreements with recording companies, touring and festival organisations and on applications/bids to be part of festivals like the Ontario Bicentennial tour or representing Canada in Japan. It also attests to bids for different services they offered like staging, sound equipment, and music production.

The creation aspect is documented by the music scores, lyrics and correspondence which inform us more specifically on John Doerr as a musician, composer and producer. Indeed, music scores of many of the CANO songs – some with notations – provide insights on the process of collective creation of the music and lyrics and also on the translation of the lyrics. While some music scores are specifically for the parts of bass guitar, some are film

scores. Doerr and Aymar did compose music and produced the scores for films, as well as themes for programs like *Légalement parlant* or *Great Movies* (CityTV). A rough draft of video shooting images with notes to synchronize the music depicts part of the process for this type of composition. Also included are some texts of 'introductions of members of the group used during concerts, with notations on music to be played, the mood, and even the staging of the musicians. The fonds also contains some of Doerr's diaries with notes on the rehearsals, tours and daily activities.

Many files document projects undertaken by the group after their dissolution. While not all projects were carried out, the fonds contains extensive documentation and correspondence on certain projects, such as agreements for the production of the CANO album *The Millennium Collection: The Best of / Les Meilleurs Succès CANO*, and the different agreements with all the partners in the realization of the project. Transcriptions of interviews with some of the members of CANO who talk of their time with the group and different events can also be found in the files on "CANO project," as well as correspondence from fans, and pictures taken by fans during CANO concerts.

The fonds also contains Gary McGroarty's files, who was the manager of the group. He turned these files over to John Doerr when he left the group. These files consist mostly of contracts with recording companies, the legal documents on the ownership of copyright for CANO songs and also for the different concerts. Membership, registration, payments made to different associations and unions as well as correspondence with these organizations are also found within those files. Some scheduling for rehearsals and traveling are also included. Marketing and promotional materials consisting of correspondence, opinions sent to specialized magazines, newspapers, press kits and also promotional materials such as cards, posters, letterhead with the official CANO logo illustrate some of the different marketing strategies used by the group.

Note: Immediate source of acquisition: The fonds was donated by John Doerr in April 2018.

Language(s) of material: Most of the records are in English some records are in French.

Restrictions on access: In compliance with the Access to Information and Privacy Acts some documents are restricted.

: In compliance with the donor's request financial records can only be accessed on site.

: Some records are restricted due to sensitive information.

Terms governing use and reproduction/publication: Copyright regulations apply.

: There is no restriction of reproduction and use for some documents, as long as the creator of the document(s) is credited.

: Restriction on reproduction applies to financial documents.

: A prior written permission from the Paiement family is required to obtain reproductions of documents created by André Paiement.

Finding aids: A preliminary inventory is available at the Laurentian University Archives.

: Out of respect to the members of the group CANO musique, the fonds level description is available in French and English, however the files have only been described in English.

Accruals: The first accrual was received April 10, 2018. More accruals expected.

Related material (this repository): The following fonds may have related material: P010 Fonds revue Réaction ; P023 Fonds Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario ; [P124 Fonds André Paiement](#) ; P127 Fonds Robert Dickson ; P193 Don Hill Fonds ; P194 Dorian Kotis Fonds ; P222 Fonds Michael Gallagher.

General note: Custodial history: When Gary McGroarty left the group, he gave his files to John Doerr who kept them. Some files may have been integrated with Doerr's files for administrative purposes, some files were not integrated.