

Finding Aid - Alan Walker fonds (RC0107)

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Alan Walker fonds

Table of contents

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

Summary information

Title:	Alan Walker fonds
Reference code:	RC0107
Date:	ca. 1836-1908 (creation)
Physical description:	7.22 m of textual records and graphic material 10 sound recordings
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	B. Whittle, 2023.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Alan Walker, Doctor of Music, F.R.S.C., university professor and writer, was born in Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire, England on 6 April 1930. He was educated at the Guildhall School of Music and at Durham University, where he specialized in piano, theory, harmony and counterpoint. In his early career, he lectured at the Guildhall School of Music from 1959 to 1961, and at London University from 1954 to 1970. Walker was a producer at the British Broadcasting Corporation from 1961 to 1971, and has contributed to programmes at the BBC and Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. He served as Distinguished Visiting Professor of Music at City University in London from 1984 to 1987 and has been a Professor of Music at McMaster University since 1971, where he was Chairman of the Department from 1971 to 1980 and again from 1990 to 1993. Walker is the recipient of numerous honours, including the Hungarian Liszt Society Medal in 1980, the American Liszt Society Medal in 1984, and the Pro Cultura Hungaria Medal in 1995. He was awarded an honorary doctorate, D. Litt (honoris causa), from McMaster University in 2002. In January 2012, he received the Knight's Cross of Merit of the Republic of Hungary, one of Hungary's highest honours. He is the author of **A Study in Music Analysis**, 1962, **An Anatomy of Musical Criticism**, 1968, **Franz Liszt**, 1971, **Robert Schumann**, 1976, **Franz Liszt: Volume One**, 1983, (for which he won the James Tait Black Award in 1983, and Yorkshire Post Music Book of the Year Award in 1984), **Franz Liszt: Volume Two**, 1989, **Franz Liszt: Volume Three**, 1996, and **The Death of Franz Liszt**, 2002. He co-authored, with Gabriele Erasmi, **Liszt, Carolyne, and the Vatican: The Story of a Thwarted Marriage**, 1991, and was the editor of **Symposium on Chopin**, 1967, **Symposium on Liszt**, 1970, **Symposium on Schumann**, 1972, **The Diary of Carl Lachmund: An American Pupil of Liszt**, 1995, and **Hans von Bülow: a life and times**, 2009. He has written over 100 articles for learned journals including a major entry on Franz Liszt for the latest edition of **Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians**, 2001. His biography, **Fryderyk Chopin**, was launched in October 2018 to much acclaim and has subsequently been translated into numerous languages.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of material related to Alan Walker's research, recordings, and other professional activities. As well as personal material, including correspondence. The third accrual contains 30 items related to Liszt and his Circle, including 14 letters from Liszt.

Notes

Immediate source of acquisition

The first accrual was donated in 1997, the second accrual in 2004, the third in 2007, the fourth in 2013, the fifth in 2017, and the sixth in 2022 all from Alan Walker.

Arrangement

The fonds consists of six accruals. The first accrual (34-1997) is arranged in two series consisting of correspondence and personal files. The second accrual (35-2004) is arranged in three series consisting of correspondence, academic and personal material, books and photographic reproductions. Also received as part of the accrual were fifteen books either written or edited by Walker; these books have been catalogued for Research Collections. The third accrual (43-2007) consists of two series: (1) letters of Franz Liszt and his circle; and (2) copies of unpublished letters of Hans von Bülow to Cécile Gorrison-Mutzenbecher. The fourth accrual (12-2013) is arranged in five series consisting of correspondence; academic and personal material; photographs; discography; Liszt collection. The fifth accrual is arranged into five series: correspondence, programmes and reviews, manuscripts, photographs and commemorative items, and Liszt research material. The sixth (2022-035) accrual is arranged into two series: correspondence, and material related to his biography of Chopin.

Restrictions on access

There are no access restrictions.

Finding aids

[Finding Aid](<https://library.mcmaster.ca/finding-aid/walker>)

Related material

A biographical essay on Walker by James Deaville is available in hard copy only in the Reading Room.

Accruals

Further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Description identifier:** RC0107

Access points

- Music (subject)
- McMaster University (subject)
- Literature and Writing (subject)
- Canadian Journalism and Broadcasting (subject)