

# Kelsey Jones Collection

Finding Aid to the Collection in the Marvin Duchow Music Library



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Finding Aid URL:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/library/library-findinfo/subjects/music/special/kelsey-jones>

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## Collection Summary

**Title:** Kelsey Jones Collection

**Span Dates:** 1943-1982

**Creator:** Jones, Kelsey, 1922-2004.

**Language:** Collection material in English and French.

**Repository:** Marvin Duchow Music Library, Schulich School of Music, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada.

**Abstract:** The Kelsey Jones Collection, at 2.5 linear feet, contains approximately 182 items, organized into 2 boxes and 2 main series. The collection largely consists of composition drafts, sketches and text by the Canadian composer Kelsey Jones. There is also selected correspondence, concert programmes and miscellaneous personal documents pertaining to Jones' life and career in music, along with notes from the composer himself explaining the nature of each section of correspondence.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalogue. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Provenance**

Gift; Kelsey Jones.

### **Accruals**

No further accruals are expected at this time.

### **Processing History**

The Kelsey Jones Collection Finding Aid was prepared in 2012 by Michaela Dickey with Microsoft Word, MAC 2008.

### **Copyright Status**

The status of copyright on the materials of the Kelsey Jones Collection is governed by the Copyright Law of Canada.

### **Restrictions**

The Kelsey Jones Collection is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Marvin Duchow Library prior to visiting. [cynthia.leive@mcgill.ca](mailto:cynthia.leive@mcgill.ca)

Certain restrictions to use or copying of materials may apply.

### **Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: container number, Kelsey Jones Collection, Marvin Duchow Library, Schulich School of Music, McGill University, Montréal, Québec.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Kelsey Jones Collection consists largely of drafts, sketches and texts for nearly all of his major compositional works. It also contains selected correspondence, programs and some personal papers that outline his life and career in music, composition, and teaching. These documents were organized by Kelsey Jones himself, into subject groupings such as: "commissions," "publishers," "letters from my teachers," "letters from interesting people," etc.

## Biographical Sketch

Date	Event
1922 17 June	Born: Herbert Kelsey Jones in South Norwalk, Norwalk, Connecticut.
1939	Moved to New Brunswick to study with Harold Hamer at the Mount Allison Conservatory.
c.1942	Lived in Boston for the duration of the Second World War, where Jones was employed in an optics factory at Harvard University.
1942	Married pianist Rosabelle Smith.
1945	Received a Bachelor in Music from Mount Allison University, NB.
1947	Received a Bachelor in Music from the University of Toronto, ON under the tutelage of Sir Ernest MacMillan.
1948-1949	Taught theory and conducted the student orchestra at Mount Allison University.
1949-1950	Studied with Nadia Boulanger in Paris, France.
1950's	Performed and toured with wife, Rosabelle Jones, as duo pianists.
1950	Founded Saint John Symphony Orchestra in St John's
1950-1954	Conducted Saint John Symphony Orchestra.
1951	Received a Diploma in Music from the University of Toronto, ON.
1954	Moved to Montreal, QC to teach counterpoint as a part-time instructor at McGill University.
1954-1984	Taught history, harpsichord, piano, theory and counterpoint (modal, tonal, fugue, canon, etc).
1957	Co-founded the Baroque Trio of Montreal, which recorded his <i>Sonata da Camera</i> and <i>Sonata da Chiesa</i> .
1963	Commissioned by the Tudor Singers to compose <i>Prophecy of Micah</i> .
1965	Commissioned by Canadian Broadcasting Company to write a chamber opera for their contribution to the Canadian Centennial Celebration.
1967 5 September	Jones' comic chamber opera <i>Sam Slick</i> , libretto by Rosabelle Jones, premiered in Halifax for a CBC broadcast performance.
1971	Moved to Cook's Lines, a municipal of Hinchinbrooke (south of Huntingdon, QC) on the Canadian/US border.
1974	Wife Rosabelle suffers tragic car accident that renders her a paraplegic.
1984	Retired and was named Professor Emeritus, McGill University.
1984-2002	Set up a winter home in Florida.
2004 10 October	Died in Montréal, Québec.

## Organisation of the Kelsey Jones Collection

The Kelsey Jones Collection is organized into the following 2 series:

- Biographical Information
- Composition

B#/F#	[It.]	Content
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Series 1		<b>BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION, [1943-1976]</b>
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The Biographical Information series contains correspondence, programmes and a photograph of Kelsey Jones. The series consists of cards and letters to or from Kelsey Jones; as well as a selected of programs he found interesting. The series is arranged chronologically, and are divided by subject headings (*the subject headings chosen for this section were indicated by Kelsey Jones himself*). The series includes correspondence of special note to/from Lord Beaverbrook, John Beckwith, Marvin Duchow, Herman Geiger-Torel, Harold Hamer, Leonard Isaacs, George Johnston, George Little, Ernest MacMillan and Healy Willan.

B1.1/F1	[5]	Correspondence: <i>Letters RE: "Other Activities"</i> [1943-1945] Includes professional correspondence pertaining to Kelsey Jones' Wartime employment in Massachusetts from the following people and/or organisations: James G. Baker, Almo Baratelli and Frank Cooke. Polaroid Corporation and Optical Research Laboratory: Harvard University.
B1.1/F2	[10]	Correspondence: <i>Letters from my Teachers</i> [1947-1967] Includes personal and/or professional correspondence to and from the following people: John Beckwith, Harold Hamer, "Leo" [Leo Smith], Ernest MacMillan and Healy Willan.
B1.1/F3	[9]	Correspondence: <i>Letters RE Work on Miramichi Ballad</i> [1953-1957] Includes personal and/or professional correspondence to and from the following people and/or organisations: Honorable Lord Beaverbrook, Helen Creighton and Louise Manny. Lord Beaverbrook's Office and the Old Manse Library.
B1.1/F4	[10]	Correspondence: <i>Some Misc. Letters and Documents (More Personal Nature)</i> [1951-1967] Includes personal and/or professional correspondence and documents to and from the following people and/or organisations: Evelyn O. Collins, George Johnston, Igor Kuchinsky, Christine Leslie, Nathan Mendelson, etc. Jewish Music Council of Montreal, Montreal Star* and St John Symphony Orchestra

Association.

\*also contains clippings from the Montreal Star.

- B1.1/F5 [5] Correspondence: *Letters RE: McGill* [1955-1973]  
Includes personal and/or professional correspondence, pertaining to McGill University, to and from the following people and/or organisations: Lessy Ashkenazi, William Bentley, Marvin Duchow, J. H. Holton and the McGill Savoy Society.
- B1.1/F6 [16] Correspondence: *Letters from Interesting People* [1955-1974]  
Includes personal and/or professional correspondence to and from the following people and/or organisations: John Beckwith, Victor Bouchard, Mrs. Alexander Brott, Davidson CBC, Mario Duschenes, Herman Geiger-Torel, Leonard Isaacs, George Little, Ken Mason, Arthur Motyer, Boyd Neel, Gordon Thorne, etc.  
The British Broadcasting Corporation, Canadian Opera Company, la Chorale Bach de Montréal, Gouvernement du Québec: Ministère des Affaires Culturelles, Mount Allison University and Orchestre de Chambre McGill.
- B1.1/F7 [24] Correspondence: *Commissions* [1961-1977]  
Includes professional correspondence pertaining to commissions to and from the following people and/or organisations: Huntley Cameron, Michael Cass-Beggs, Anne Coy, Michael Davies, Yvonne Goudreau, Guy Huot, Gilles Lefebvre, Carl Little, Richard Plaw, John Roberts, Duncan S. Sandison and Dan R. Wayman.  
The Canada Council, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the Lakeshore Chamber Music Society, International Music Day, Jeunesse Musicales du/of Canada, Kingston Symphony Association and la Société de la Chorale Bach de Montréal.
- B1.1/F8 [5] Correspondence: *Publishers* [1970-1972]  
Includes professional correspondence to and from the following people and/or organisations: William Brubacher, William J. I. Croombs, Carla E. Hinrichsen and Jean Papineau-Couture.  
Boosey and Hawkes, Canadian League of Composers, Hinrichsen Edition Ltd. (Edition Peters) and Waterloo Music Company.
- B1.1/F9 [7] Concert Programmes: *Some Interesting Programs* [1957-1974]  
Includes programmes of concerts in which works of Kelsey Jones were performed: Edinburgh International Festival: The McGill Chamber Orchestra, The Montreal Bach Choir, Montreal Jewish Music Council: Meet the Composer Evening featuring works by Istvan Anhalt and Kelsey Jones, and esteemed performers such as Hymen Bress (violinist), Maureen Forrester (contralto) and the Tudor Singers.
- B1.1/F10 [1] Photograph  
8x10 portrait of Kelsey Jones [n.d.]

**B#/F#**      **[It.]**      **Content**

**Series 2**                      **COMPOSITIONS, [1954-1982]**

The Compositions series contains sketches, texts and manuscripts of 30 of Kelsey Jones' major compositions. The works are arranged chronologically.  
Composition dates, durations and instrumentations are provided when possible.

- B1.2/F10      [7]      Miramichi Ballad 1954  
[Miramichi ballad]  
Miramichi Ballad: a suite for orchestra  
Composed 1954  
Instrumentation: full orchestra – fl, ob, cl, bn – 2 hn, trp, tbn, btrn, tuba – timp, sd, bd – str  
Duration: 13:30 min  
Sketches and themes, in pencil and ink; 23 leaves; 28-32 cm  
Fair copy sketch, in pencil (22 p.); 32 cm
- B1.2/F11      [9]      Five Limericks and Nonsense Songs 1955  
[Nonsense songs]  
Nonsense Songs: Five Limericks and the Table and the Chair  
Composed 1955  
Instrumentation: SATB  
Duration: 3:05 min  
Text in English by Edward Lear  
Typewritten text; 2 leaves; 28 cm  
Sketches and themes, in pencil and ink; 6 leaves; 32 cm  
Handwritten note from Kelsey Jones to pianist John Newmark; 2 leaves.
- B1.2/F12      [3]      Songs of Time/ Four Pieces for Recorders/ Suite for Flute and Strings 1955  
[Songs of time]  
Songs of Time  
Composed 1955  
Instrumentation: SATB and piano (for four hands)  
Duration: 13:35 min  
Sketch, manuscript book, in pencil (16 p.); 32 cm  
[Four pieces for recorder]  
Four pieces for recorder (Suites for Recorders)  
Composed 1955  
Instrumentation: recorders  
Duration: 7 min  
Sketches, in pencil; 7 leaves; 28 cm

[Suite, flute, strings]  
A Suite for Flute and Strings  
Composed 1954  
Instrumentation: flute, violin I, violin II, viola, cello and double bass.  
Duration: 19:35 min  
Sketches, in pencil and coloured pencil; 37 leaves; 32 cm

B1.2/F13      [2]      Sonata da Camera /& Song Cycle to Music 1957  
[Sonata da camera]  
Sonata da Camera  
Composed 1957  
Instrumentation: flute, oboe and harpsichord  
Duration: 10:35 min  
Sketches, manuscript book, in pencil; 18 leaves; 30 cm  
  
[To music]  
To Music: A Song Cycle  
Composed 1957  
Instrumentation: contralto and piano  
Duration: 16:15 min  
Text in English by Robert Herrick  
Typewritten text with pen annotations; 1 leaf; 14 cm  
Sketches, manuscript book, in pencil; 22 leaves; 30 cm

B1.2/F14      [10]      Songs of Experience 1958 - Introduction & Fugue 1959 - Passacaglia for Piano/  
Theme and Variations/ Songs of Innocence 1961  
[Songs of experience]  
Songs of Experience  
Composed 1958  
Instrumentation: SATB  
Duration: 6:50 min  
Text in English by William Blake  
Typewritten text; 1 leaf; 28 cm  
Sketch, manuscript book, in pencil; 7 leaves; 32 cm  
  
[Introduction and fugue]  
Introduction and Fugue for Violin and Piano  
Composed 1959  
Instrumentation: violin and piano  
Duration: 9:25 min  
Sketch, manuscript book, in pencil; 12 leaves; 30 cm  
  
[Passacaglia, piano]  
Passacaglia  
Composed 1961  
Instrumentation: piano  
Duration: 10 min  
Sketch, manuscript book, in pencil; 14 leaves; 30 cm

[Theme and variations]

Theme and Variations

Composed 1961

Instrumentation: piano 4 hands

Duration: 17:30 min

Sketch, manuscript book, in pencil; 25 leaves; 30 cm

[Songs of innocence]

Songs of Innocence

Composed 1961

Instrumentation: soprano and chamber orchestra: fl, ob, cl – trp – perc – S (solo) – str.

Duration: 15:50 min

Text in English by William Blake

Handwritten title page, in pencil; 1 leaf; 32 cm

Typewritten text; 3 leaf; 25 cm

Fair copy sketch, in pencil; 14 leaves; 32 cm

B1.2/F15      [9]      Psalm 49 1962 - Prelude, fughetta and finale /Prophecy of Micah 1963

[Psalm forty-nine]

Psalm Forty-Nine

Composed 1962

Instrumentation: baritone and piano

Text in English

Typewritten texts for program notes; includes Jones' Psalm 49 (7 p.); 25 cm

Sketch, manuscript book, in pencil; 17 leaves; 30 cm

[Prelude, fughetta and finale]

Prelude, Fughetta and Finale

Composed 1963

Instrumentation: violin, cello and harpsichord

Duration: 14 min

Sketch, manuscript book, in pencil; 20 leaves; 32 cm

[Prophecy of Micah]

Prophecy of Micah

Composed 1963

Instrumentation: SATB

Duration: 23:05 min

Text in English adapted by R. Jones

Handwritten preface and note by R. Jones and Kelsey Jones; and newspaper photo clipping; 2 leaves

Typewritten text with handwritten annotations in pencil and ink; 4 leaves; 24 cm

Typewritten text; 1 leaf; 21.5 cm

Sketch, in pencil; 56 leaves; 30 cm



- B2.1/F1      [3]      Rondo for solo flute 1964 - Quintet for winds / Sonata da chiesa 1967
- [Rondo, flute]  
                 Rondo for Solo Flute  
                 Composed 1964  
                 Instrumentation: flute  
                 Duration: 25:15 min  
                 Sketches in pencil; 4 leaves; 32 cm
- [Quintet, flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon]  
                 Quintet for Winds  
                 Composed 1967  
                 Instrumentation: flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon  
                 Duration: 13:05 min  
                 Sketches in pencil; 28 leaves; 32 cm
- [Sonata da chiesa]  
                 Sonata da Chiesa  
                 Composed 1967  
                 Instrumentation: flute, oboe, clarinet and harpsichord  
                 Duration: 11:20 min  
                 Sketches in pencil; 26 leaves; 32 cm
- B2.1/F2      [16]      Sam Slick. Libretto /Overture & Four Scenes. 1967
- [Sam Slick]  
                 Sam Slick: Chamber Opera  
                 Composed 1965-1967, commissioned by Canadian Broadcasting Company for their contribution to the Canadian Centennial Celebration.  
                 Instrumentation: 8 solo voices and orchestra:  
                 Libretto in English by Rosabelle Jones  
                 Introduction by Edgar Bennet, CBC Radio: *Tues. September 5, 1967*; 3 leaves  
                 Duo-tang, fair copy of libretto and notes by Rosabelle Jones (37 p.); 28 cm  
                 Fair copy sketch in pencil, 14 booklets; 192 leaves; 38 cm
- B2.1/F3      [6]      Kishimuguac 1971 – Hymn to Bacchus 1972 - Adagio, presto and fugue 1973
- [Kishimuguac]  
                 Kishimuguac Suites: Songs of the Pioneers  
                 Composed 1971  
                 Instrumentation: SATB  
                 Duration: 11 min  
                 Text in English adapted by Rosabelle Jones  
                 Typewritten text; 5 leaves; 28 cm  
                 Sketches in pencil; 24 leaves; 32 cm
- [Hymn to Bacchus]  
                 Hymn to Bacchus  
                 Composed 1972  
                 Instrumentation: SATB and piano 4 hands

[continued]

Duration: 20:25 min  
Text in English by Robert Herrick adapted by Rosabelle Jones  
Typewritten text with pencil annotations; 6 leaves; 28 cm  
Typewritten text for program; 1 leaf  
Sketch in pencil, 8 booklets; 52 leaves; 32 cm

[Adagio, presto and fugue]  
Adagio, Presto and Fugue  
Composed 1973  
Instrumentation: string orchestra  
Duration: 23 min  
Sketches in pencil, 3 booklets; 40 leaves; 32 cm

B2.1/F4

[5] Songs of Winter 1974 - Passacaglia and Fugue 1975 - Fantasy on a Theme 1976

[Songs of winter]  
Songs of Winter  
Composed 1974  
Instrumentation: soprano, contralto and piano  
Text in English by early Canadian poets, adapted by Rosabelle Jones  
Notes, typewritten and handwritten; 2 leaves; 28 cm  
Sketch, booklet, in pencil; 20 leaves; 30-32 cm

[Passacaglia, fugue]  
Passacaglia and Fugue for Brass Quintet  
Composed 1975  
Instrumentation: 2 trumpet, horn, trombone and tuba  
Duration: 8:50 min  
Sketch, manuscript book, in pencil; 12 leaves; 30-32 cm

[Fantasy on a theme]  
Fantasy on a Theme  
Composed 1976  
Instrumentation: full orchestra: fl, ob, cl, bn – 2 hn, trp, tbn, btbn, tuba – timp, sd, bd – str.  
Sketch, manuscript book, in pencil; 34 leaves; 34 cm

B2.1/F5

[3] Jazzum Opus Unum 1977

[Jazzum opus unum]  
Jazzum Opus Unum  
Composed 1977  
Instrumentation: jazz band: 2 sax, 2 ts, bar, flgn – 2 trp, tbn, 2 tuba – perc, el-g, el-p – el-b.  
Duration: 18 min  
Sketch in pencil; 50 leaves; 32 cm

B2.1/F6	[2]	Da Musica, Con Amore 1977 [Da musica, con amore] Da Musica, Con Amore Composed 1977 Instrumentation: mixed choir and brass quintet Duration: 15:05 min Notes, texts and translations; handwritten in ink and pencil; 6 leaves; 28 cm Sketch in pencil; 12 leaves; 34 cm
B2.1/F7	[1]	Musica D'Occasione 1978 [Musica d'occasione] Musica d'Occasione Composed 1978 "Especially for the ceremonies on the Montreal Neurological Institute: September 14-17, 1978. Dedicated to 'Bill' Feindel" Instrumentation: brass quintet Sketch in pencil; 8 leaves; 32 cm
B2.1/F8	[5]	3 Preludes and a Fugue 1982 [Three preludes and a fugue] Three Preludes and a Fugue Composed 1982 Instrumentation: saxophone quintet Duration: 19 min Timing sheet, in pencil; 1 leaf; 10 cm Sketch in pencil; 28 leaves; 28 cm