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PEAKER, Charles

Originals 1912-1975 & n.d.

One of Canada's outstanding concert organists, Charles Peaker was born in Derby, England in 1899. When thirteen years old, his family emigrated to Canada, settling in Saskatoon. In 1919 he was awarded a Heintzman scholarship to study in Toronto with Willan, MacMillan, and Seitz. During his various studies he was awarded the A.T.C.M. (1919); B.Mus (1925) and D.Mus. (1936), University of Toronto; and was granted the F.R.C.O. (1929).

Peaker began his performing career as a theatre organist. However, from the mid 1920's he worked almost exclusively as a church musician. Although his first appointment was in St. Paul Street United Church, St. Catharine's, Ontario (1926-1928), Peaker spent the duration of his career attached to Toronto churches: Rosedale United, 1930-36; Deer Park United, 1937-44; and finally, St. Paul's Anglican, Bloor Street, 1944-75. Peaker was in great demand as a recitalist, making tours not only of Canada, but of the United States of America (1935), and Great Britain (1954).

Although mainly interested in being a practising organist, Peaker had many teaching positions, including at the Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto (1930-1970, serving as Director 1944-45); and lecturer, University of Toronto (1952-65). Peaker made large contributions to the University's musical life by conducting the Hart House Glee Club (1934-50) and as University Organist (1952-65).

A man of catholic tastes, Peaker was an ardent student of literature, particularly Shakespeare, writing and lecturing on the subject. Occasionally, he applied his critical talents to music, sometimes to subjects with which one does not normally associate a church organist: reviewing the rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar, and a performance given by Elvis Presley.

Although plagued for many years with a heart condition, Peaker maintained a sincere interest in many organizations: Ontario Registered Music Teacher's Association, serving as President 1948-49; Royal Canadian College of Organists, serving as President, 1941-43, and as Honorary President from 1974 until his death; and Honorary Life Member of the Royal Canadian Institute. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in 1974.

The collection consists mainly of concert programmes, clippings by and about Charles Peaker, radioscripts, and several miscellaneous items.

The following concert programmes have been transferred to the Printed Collection: St. John's Church, Victoria, B.C., June 16, 1962; First Presbyterian Church, Chatham, Ont., May 12, 1970; St. Paul's Church, Toronto, April 15, 1960; July 14, 1960; March 31, 1961. As well, 2 photographs of an organ console in Akron, Ohio have been transferred to the Photo Collection: Nos. 0000-185 and 0000-186.

1975-13

The Charles Peaker Collection

DESCRIPTIVE LIST - NUMERICAL

Box No.	Folder No.	Page No.	Description
I	1	1-24	Alphabetical index by composers of works played.
			PROGRAMMES
	2	1	Casavant Society, Montreal, December 4, 1944.
		1a	Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists, Detroit, June 15, 1942.
		2	London Chapter, Canadian College of Organists, April 14, 1947.
		2a	Four Twilight Recitals, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, November 1936.
		2b	"My Car: A Tragic Story" in <u>Saturday Night</u> , November 23, 1946.
		3	Annual Convention of the Canadian College of Organists, Toronto, August 27, 1947.
		4	Oshawa Centre of the Canadian College of Organists, October 27, 1947.
		4a	Toronto Summer School of Church Music, June 2, 1947.
		5	University of Toronto Organ Recitals, November 3, 1947.
		6	Four Twilight Recitals, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, November 1947.
		7	Casavant Society of Toronto, January 7, 1948.
		8	Rochester Chapter, American Guild of Organists, January 27, 1948.
		9	The Bach-Elgar Choir of Hamilton. <u>The Creation</u> cond. by Peaker, February 5, 1948.
		10	Hart House, Sunday Evening Concert, University of Toronto. The Hart House Glee Club, cond. by Peaker, acc. by Lorne Watson, February 29, 1948.
		11	Lenten Music at Twilight, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, February and March 1948.

- 12 Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association, Niagara Falls Branch, April 14, 1948.
- 13 University of Michigan, School of Music, Organ Recital Series, Ann Arbor, May 18, 1948.
- 14 Wedding of Mary Evans and George Taylor Gale, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, June 19, 1948.
- 14a Organ Recital, Memorial Presbyterian Church, July 1948.
- 3 15 Four Bach Recitals, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, September and October 1948.
- 16 St. Paul's Church, October 16, 1948.
- 17 Two Advent Organ Recitals, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, November 1948.
- 18 Advent Organ Recital, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, November 27 [1948].
- 19 Organ Recitals, St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Hamilton, February 21, 1949.
- 20 Hart House, Sunday Evening Concert, University of Toronto. The Hart House Glee Club, cond. by Peaker, February 27, 1949.
- 21 University of Toronto Organ Recitals, February 28, 1949.
- 22 Two Lenten Organ Recitals, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, March 26 and April 2, 1949.
- 23 A festival of Music, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, April 21, 1949.
- 24 Dedication of Memorial Organ, St. Paul's Street United Church, St. Catharines, October 26, 1949.
- 25 Three Advent Recitals, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, October and November [1949].
- 26 Organ and Song Recital, St. Andrew's College, Aurora, November 26, 1949.
- 27 Messiah, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Toronto, December 19, 1949.
- 28 University of Toronto Organ Recitals, February 27, 1950.
- 29 Four Bach Recitals, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, March 1950.

- 4 30 Five Lenten Recitals, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, March 22, 1947.
- 31 Opening Recital on the New Casavant Organ, First Methodist Church, Cleveland, March 24, 1943.
- 32 Casavant Society of Toronto, January 29, 1944.
- 33 Four Twilight Recitals, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, November 1946.
- 34 American Guild of Organists, St. Paul's Methodist Church, Niagara Falls, NY, October 5, 1948.
- 35 Formal Opening of the Casavant Organ, St. John's Church, York Mills, November 24, 1949.
- 36 St. Andrew's College Chapel, Aurora, March 14, [1950].
- 37 The Women's Association of Chalmers United Church, Ottawa, April 17, 1950.
- 38 Rochester Chapter, American Guild of Organists, April 18, 1950.
- 39 Organ Recital, St. Paul's Church, Runnymede, May 18, 1950.
- 40 Central United Church, Weston, October 11, 1950.
- 41 Toronto Centre, Canadian College of Organists, October 14, 1950.
- 42 Dedication of Victory Memorial Organ and Chancel, Kew Beach United Church, Toronto, November 28, 1950.
- 43 Three Advent Recitals, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, November and December 1950.
- 44 Recital of Music, Eaton Auditorium, Toronto, January 15, 1951.
- 5 45 University of Toronto Organ Recitals, February 12, 1951.
- 45a University of Toronto Organ Recitals, February 26, 1951.
- 47 Western Michigan Chapter, American Guild of Organists, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 5, 1951.
- 48 Organ Recital, Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland, March 7, 1951.
- 48a Newspaper reviews of the above two concerts.
- 49 St. Lawrence River Chapter, American Guild of Organists, St. George's Cathedral, Kingston, May 21, 1951.

- 50 Organ Recital, Metropolitan Church,
Victoria, June 9, [1951].
- 51 Organ Recital, Christ Church
Cathedral, Vancouver, June 19,
1951.
- 52 Organ Recital, University of Alberta,
June 26, 1951.
- 53 Organ Recital, Canadian Federation
of Music Teachers' Association,
Westminster United Church,
Winnipeg. July 3, 1951.
- 53a Newspaper reviews of the above
concert.
- 54 Organ Recital, Royal Conservatory
of Music of Toronto, Summer
School, July 11, 1951.
- 55 Wedding of Margaret Jean Haig and
Michael Heriot Roth, Deer Park
United Church, Toronto, July 27,
1951.
- 56 Organ Recital, First Presbyterian
Church, Edmonton, September 24,
1951.
- 57 Winnipeg Centre, Canadian Collège
of Organists, Westminster Church,
September 26, 1951.
- 58 Organ Recital, St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church, Welland,
November 5, 1951.
- 59 Organ Recital, Church of St. Martin-
in-the-Fields, Toronto, November
14, 1951.
- 6 60 Three Advent Recitals, St. Paul's
Church, Toronto, November 1951.
- 61 University of Toronto Organ
Recitals, November 19, 1951.
- 62 Recital on the New Casavant Organ,
Metropolitan United Church,
London, November 27, 1951.
- 63 Recital, Knox Presbyterian Church,
Toronto, December 9, 1951.
- 64 Wedding of Lynde-Page, December
26, 1951.
- 65 Organ Recital, Christ Church
Cathedral, Vancouver, January 15,
1952.
- 66 Recital on the new Eaton organ, St.
Andrew's Presbyterian Church,
Victoria, January 16, 1952.
- 66a Toronto Centre, Canadian Collège of
Organists, St. Paul's Church,
Toronto. The Messiah, Peaker at
the organ, February 26, 1952.

- 67 Brant Avenue United Church,
February 28, 1952.
- 67a Royal Conservatory of Music of
Toronto, Monthly Bulletin, March
1952.
- 68 Casavant Society of Toronto, Eaton
Auditorium, March 12, 1952.
- 69 Same as 67a
- 70 Three Lenten Recitals, St. Paul's
Church, Toronto, March and April
1952.
- 71 Organ Recital, St. John's United
Church, Oakville, May 21, 1952.
- 72 Opening Recital, Church of St. John
the Evangelist, Thorold, May 28,
1952.
- 72a Diocese of Toronto, Centenary of the
Synod, Maple Leaf Gardens,
Toronto, June 1, 1952.
- 73 Organ Recital, radio script, CBL,
Toronto, May 30, 1952.
- 74 Continuation of 73.
- II 1 75 Organ Recital, radio script, CBL,
Toronto, June 1952.
- 76 ORMTA, St. James United Church,
Simcoe, February 4, 1953.
- 77 University of Toronto Organ
Recitals, March 16, 1953.
- 78 Organ Recital, St. Paul's Anglican
Church, Toronto, April 12, 1953.
- 79 Musical Evening, Metropolitan United
Church, London, April 14, 1953.
- 80 Organ Recital on the new Keates
Organ, Sarnia, April 15, 1953.
- 80b Letter to the Editor by Peaker, The
Diapason, May 1953.
- 81 Organ Recital, St. James' Cathedral,
Toronto, May 15, 1953.
- 82 Organ Recital, St. James' Cathedral,
Toronto, May 20, 1953.
- 83 Organ Recital, St. Paul's Anglican
Church, Toronto, June 14, 1953.
- 84 Organ Recital, Summer School, Royal
Conservatory of Music, Toronto,
July 29, 1953, and review from The
Globe and Mail, July 30, 1953.
- 85 Annual Convention of the Canadian
College of Organists, Toronto,
September 2, 1953.

- 86 Evening Music, St. Paul's Anglican
Church, Toronto, October 12, 1952.
- 87 Recital opening the new war
memorial organ, St. Paul's
Cathedral, London, October 13,
1953, and two clippings.
- 88 Toronto Centre, Canadian College of
Organists, October 26, 1953.
- 89 Recital, Trinity United Church,
Burlington, October 27, 1953.
- 2 90 Windsor Centre, Canadian College of
Organists, November 3, 1953, and
review from The Windsor Daily
Star, November 4, 1953.
- 91 Organ Recital, University of Toronto,
November 16, 1953.
- 92 Recital, Wesley United Church,
Brantford, December 1, 1953.
- 93 Advent Recitals, St. Paul's Anglican
Church, Toronto, December 5 and
12, 1953, and reviews from The
Globe and Mail, December 7 and
14, 1953.
- 94 Royal Conservatory of Music of
Toronto. Monthly Bulletin,
December 1953.
- 94a Organ Recital, St. James' Cathedral,
Toronto, December 7, 1953.
- 95 Distinguished Artists, radio script,
CBC Toronto, January 10, 1954.
- 97 Organ Recital, radio script, CFRB
Toronto, January 12, 1954.
- 98 Organ Recital, radio script, CFRB
Toronto, January 19, 1954.
- 99 Organ Recital, radio script, CFRB
Toronto, January 26, 1954.
- 100 Organ Recital, radio script, CFRB
Toronto, February 2, 1954.
- 101 Organ Recital, radio script, CFRB
Toronto, February 9, 1954.
- 102 Organ Recital, radio script, CFRB
Toronto, February 16, 1954.
- 103 Organ Recital, radio script, CFRB
Toronto, February 23, 1954.
- 104 Organ Recital, radio script, CFRB
Toronto, March 2, 1954.
- 3 105 Organ Recital, radio script, CFRB
Toronto, March 9, 1954.
- 106 Organ Recital, radio script, CFRB
Toronto, March 16, 1954.

- 107 Organ Recital, radio script, CFRB
Toronto, March 23, 1954.
- 108 Organ Recital, radio script, CFRB
Toronto, March 31, 1954.
- 109 Organ Recital, radio script, CFRB
Toronto, April 6, 1954.
- 110 Sherbourne United Church, Toronto,
Franz Shubert, The Song of
Miriam, March 4, 1954.
- 111 Editorial Notes, Toronto Conserva-
tory of Music, Bulletin, No. 97
(February-March 1946), p. 1.
- 112 Organ Recital, First Methodist
Church, Toronto, 1953-4, and
review. 2 photographs of the organ
console at St. Paul's Episcopal
Church, Akron, Ohio transferred to
Picture Collection, nos. 0000-185
and 0000-186.
- 113 Specifications of organ, St. Paul's
Episcopal Church, Akron, Ohio.
- 114 Recital, Christ Church, Devonshire,
Bermuda, February 5, 1954, and
review, Mid-Ocean News, February
6, 1954.
- 115 Recital, First Baptist Church, North
Bay, March 25, 1954, and review.
- 116 Four Lenten Recitals, St. Paul's
Church, Toronto, March 20, 27,
April 3 and 10, 1954, and news-
paper clipping, The Globe and Mail,
April 1, 1954.
- 117 Summer School, Royal Conservatory
of Music, Toronto, July 12, 1954,
and review, The Globe and Mail,
July 13, 1954.
- 118 Wedding of Ruttle-Eagleson, St.
Paul's Anglican Church, Toronto,
July 31, 1954.
- 119 Westminster Abbey, August 15, 1954,
and clipping, The Diapason
August 1, 1954.
- 4 120 Organ Recital, Westminster Abbey,
August 19, 1954, and invitation
from the Abbey.
- 121 Organ Recital, St. Peter Mancroft,
Norwich, August 24, 1954, and
newspaper clippings.
- 122 Congress, Incorporated Association
of Organists, August 25, 1954.

- 123 Recital, St. Mary's Church, Welshpool, September 1, 1954, and clipping, The Globe and Mail, August 11, 1954.
- 124 Newspaper clipping concerning recital in Westminster Abbey.
- 124a The Quarterly Record, October 1954.
- 124b Photograph, 30th Annual Conference, Incorporated Association of Organists, 1954.
- 125 Recital, St. Andrew's United Church, Oshawa, October 25, 1954, and review.
- 126 Dedication of Memorial Organ, Church of St. Timothy, Toronto, November 7, 1954.
- 127 Concert, Grace United Church, Toronto, November 22, 1954, and review The Globe and Mail, November 23, 1954.
- 128 Two Advent Recitals, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, December 4 and 11, 1954, and newspaper clipping.
- 129 Organ Recital, University of Toronto, January 31, 1955, and review, The Varsity, February 2, 1955.
- 130 Ottawa Centre, Canadian College of Organists, February 8, 1955, and two reviews.
- 131 Organ Dedication and Recital, St. Christopher on-the-Heights, Toronto, February 14, 1955.
- 132 Recital, Trinity United Church, Newmarket, March 3, 1955.
- 133 Three Lenten Recitals, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, March 19, 26, April 2, 1955, and review, The Globe and Mail, March 21, 1955.
- 133a Newspaper clippings concerning the above recitals.
- 134 Bulletin, London Society of Organists, No. 15 (April 1955).
- 5 135 Recital, Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, April 13, 1955.
- 136 Organ Recital, Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver, June 8, 1955, and two reviews.
- 137 Recital, Metropolitan United Church, Victoria, June 25, 1955.

- 138 Programme, Service of Thanksgiving, Masonic Order of Canada, Toronto, July 17, 1955.
- 139 Summer School, Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, July 18, 1955.
- 140 Organ Recital, script, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, August 17, 1955.
- 141 Newspaper Clipping, London Free Press, August 31, 1955.
- 142 Organ Recital, Central United Church, Windsor, September 27, 1955.
- 142a Letter to the Editor, The Diapason, September 1, 1955.
- 143 Organ Recital, radio script, CBL Toronto, October 9, 1955, and announcement from Casavant Frères, October 4, 1955.
- 144 Toronto Centre, Canadian Collège of Organists, October 15, 1955, and two reviews.
- 145 Two Advent Recitals, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, December 10 and 17, 1955, and two reviews.
- 146 Organ Recital, University of Toronto, January 30, 1956.
- 147 Organ Recital, Bloor Street United Church, Toronto, February 11, 1956.
- 148 Organ Recital, Christ Church, Clarkson, February 28, 1956.
- 149 Opening recital of the new Casavant organ, Trinity United Church, Burlington, March 5, 1956, and review.
- 6 150 Organ Recital, Danforth Avenue United Church, Toronto, March 11, 1956.
- 151 Three Lenten Recitals, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, March 10, 17 and 24, 1956, and review.
- 152 Easter Recital, St. Paul's Church, Toronto, April 7, 1956.
- 153 Organ Recital, St. Andrew's Church, Moose Jaw, April 17, 1956, and newspaper announcement.
- 154 Organ Recital, Cathedral Church of the Redeemer, Calgary, April 18, 1956; review, The Albertan, April 19, 1956; and printed invitation.
- 154a The Parish Magazine, Calgary, XLII, 4 (April 1956).

- 155 Recital, Robertson United Church, Edmonton, April 19, 1956, and poster.
- III 1 Writings by Peaker
- 1 Notes on Bach Organ Recital No. 5, March 31, 1950.
- 1a Notes on Bach Organ Recital No. 8, April 21, [1950].
- 2 Notes on Bach Organ Recital No. 10, May 5, 1950.
- 3 Notes on Bach Organ Recital No. 11, May 12, 1950.
- 4 Notes on Bach Organ Recital No. 12, May 19, 1950.
- 5 Pages 7-9 of notes on J.S. Bach
- 8 Last page of a thumb-nail sketch of J.S. Bach.
- 9 Notes for concerts.
- 11 Obituary of Frederick Silvester, The Diapason.
- 12 Various clippings from The Diapason.
- 15 "A Brief Description... of the New War Memorial Casavant Organ... Knox Presbyterian Church, Toronto...".
- 16 "Hoops, Swords Banned from Messiah".
- 17 "Our Cultural Trade with Britain", 2 copies.
- 2 13 newspaper clippings about Peaker, 1940-1959 and n.d.
- 3 1 Telegramme to Peaker from his father, January 10, 1929.
- 2 Letter to Peaker from Edward Heath, July 9, 1975.
- 3 Copy of letter from St. Paul's Church, Toronto to John Tuttle, offering him the position of organist-choirmaster, July 25, 1975.
- 4 1 The Boys' Brigade, card of Peaker, age 12.
- 2 Akron Chapter, American Guild of Organists, February 2, 1954.
- 3 Organ Recital, Westminster Abbey, August 19, 1954.

- 4 "The New Organ in St. Paul's",
Toronto, 1956.
- 5 Good Friday, St. Paul's Church,
Toronto, March 31, 1961, 2 copies.
- 7 Annual Vestry, St. Paul's Church,
Toronto, January 29, 1962.
- 8 Testimonial Dinner in honour of
Charles Peaker, October 6, 1975.
- 9 Envelope from St. Paul's Church,
Toronto.
- 10 "A Short Talk with Lynnwood
Farnam", Musical Opinion, October
1927.