

17

*Before formation of the  
French Orchestra*



FROM

THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR,  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,  
MONTREAL.

PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR:  
SIR ARTHUR W. CURRIE, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

January 6, 1932.

The McGill Graduates of Montreal,  
and the members of the Governing  
Board and Corporation.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am sure you are all pleased with the success that has attended the formation of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra by Douglas Clarke, Dean of the Faculty of Music of McGill University. That Professor Clarke should have taken advantage of the unemployment of so many first-class musicians to weld them together into an efficient organization shows his alertness and his keenness to help the cause of music in Montreal: that he should have held them together during the difficult period of the last eighteen months is a tribute to his power of organization and to his personality.

The terms under which these concerts are given in His Majesty's Theatre are that the theatre takes 40% of the proceeds each week. (This may be too high a percentage, and personally I think it is, but the contract has been made and must be observed.) The other 60% is divided among the musicians and gives them each about \$6.00 a week. From a fund collected at the beginning of the season there has been taken a sum sufficient to make the musicians' weekly stipend up to \$15.00 each, - a very small amount when it is appreciated that the Orchestra holds rehearsals on five days previous to its concert on the Sunday.

We are now told that there is only sufficient in the treasury to maintain these concerts for another three weeks. To me it seems a strange thing that Montreal, claiming to be a city of culture, should be willing to see this Orchestra break up, for it would

mean that the things most worth while do not really appeal to our people.

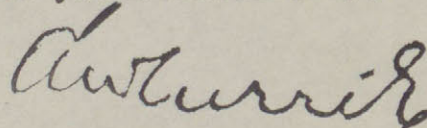
I have been proud of the Faculty of Music and particularly of its Dean, for taking the lead in seeking to raise the tone of musical taste and to develop a finer appreciation of the beauty of good music. It is right that the University should assume this position of leadership. If the project succeeds credit will come to the University: if it fails there is no doubt that the failure will be regarded as a reflection on the power of the University to stimulate the necessary interest. It may be that it is too difficult a task to develop in the space of two short seasons an enthusiasm for good orchestra music, but I am unwilling to believe this.

I have been told that a Symphony Orchestra is a luxury in times of depression. This is not so. This Orchestra is the only factor sustaining more than fifty families. Furthermore, I hold that in times of stress, when nerves are ultra sensitive, nothing is more soothing, more necessary, more helpful, more inspiring than good music.

I am confining this appeal to McGill graduates and those most directly interested in the University. \$7000 must be raised within the next fortnight if these concerts are to extend beyond Sunday, January 17th. Will you do what you can to help us in our effort to keep the Montreal Symphony Orchestra together?

Contributions may be sent to  
The Montreal Orchestra, Inc.,  
Room 2001,, Mount Royal Hotel.

Ever yours faithfully,



Principal.

January 11,  
1932

Mrs. F. M. G. Johnson,  
President,  
McGill Women's Union.

Dear Mrs. Johnson,

May I express my thanks to you  
and the other members of the McGill Women's Union  
who so kindly assisted me last week in sending  
out the appeal to the McGill graduates on behalf  
of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. It was a  
very tedious and long job, I know: but let us  
hope that the results will justify the time spent  
on it.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal

The beginning of the trouble

W. F. SHEPHERD  
1536 BISHOP STREET

May 22/33

Dear Sir, Arthur-

Whoever reported to you my statement concerning Dean Clarke and Underet did not do so correctly. What I did say was that Underet, after having consented to act as concert-master of our orchestra, at the last minute told Pelletier he felt it would be wiser, for reasons of tact, not to play.

I am aware that members of the Faculty of Music at Mc Gill may accept engagements when and where they choose. Nevertheless, as a Mc Gill man myself, I was disappointed that the Mc Gill contingent in the Montreal Symphony Orchestra found it impossible, for no doubt good reasons, to play for such a distinguished Canadian musician as Pelletier.

Respectfully Yours,  
W. F. Shepherd.

May 12, 1933.

W. F. Shepherd, Esq.,  
39 Rosemount Avenue,  
Montreal, P. Q.

*My dear Bill,*

I have been told that you have said that Dean Douglas Clarke threatened Mr. Onderet with dismissal from the staff of our Faculty of Music if he should play in the Orchestra conducted by Mr. Pelletier of New York in Montreal recently.

I wish to assure you that in this matter you have been grossly misinformed, there being no truth whatever in such a charge against Dean Clarke. Mr. Onderet can play when and where he likes, as far as we are concerned. I am quite sure it is not your desire to do any injustice to a member of the staff of your Alma Mater.

*Ever yours*

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

October 22nd, 1931.

I saw Dean Clarke and Miss D'Amour to-day. I explained to her that the University officially had nothing to do with the Orchestra, nor with any difficulties she might have with its Director. I told her that her work at the University was satisfactory and that she enjoyed just the same status here now as she ever did. I also said that I hoped there would be nothing but pleasant relations between her and the other members of the staff.

I suggested that in connection with her difficulties with the Union, she go to a Union meeting, ask for a hearing, and state her views clearly and positively, and that, with every diffidence, I suggested she should have done that before she wrote to the head of the Union in New York, - an action which the Union officials here are likely to resent and which will not get her very far.

AWC:DM

*Rene D'Amour*

MC GILL UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF MUSIC  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

DEAN - DOUGLAS CLARKE, M.A., MUS. BAC. (CANTAB)

677 W. SHERBROOKE STREET

MONTREAL

October 22nd, 1931.

The Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Principal,

I presume that Miss D'Amour is taking advantage of the fact that she is on the staff of the Conservatorium to trouble you with this matter. She has four pupils -- two partials, one half-partial and one second study -- all of whom were given her by us. She has brought no students here herself.

She is a peculiar type. When the orchestra was formed, she was the lieutenant, so to speak, of the first manager of the orchestra, and I believe worked in the orchestra's interests. In November of last year this man (Romano) left the orchestra -- for what reason I don't know -- and started working actively against it, threatening to wreck it. He started a non-Union orchestra and was dismissed, with a fine, from the Union. Ever since then he has been associated with non-Union players. When I was re-constructing the orchestra for this season, I was informed that Miss D'Amour had been associating herself with Romano in his non-Union activities, and I decided that it would be wiser not to include her in the present orchestra, as I had no desire to come into conflict with the Union authorities.

When Miss D'Amour discovered that she was not included in the orchestra, she asked me for an interview, which I gave her. She then told me that she had been in the broadcasting studio with Romano's non-Union band, but only to turn over the pages of her sister's music. Even if she was not playing with Romano she was associating herself with his work. I told her this and said I was sorry that as my number of violins was complete I could not take her into the orchestra.

That is one side of the trouble -- which really does not interest me. There is another side. After Romano quitted my orch-

estra last year, Miss D'Amour remained, and it was reported to me from time to time that she was disloyal. She said nothing to me, but her attitude had unquestionably altered towards me. I have been told that many of the men would not have played with the orchestra this year if she had been included in it. As in all cases of this kind, it is extremely difficult to get hold of anything definite, but this woman's demeanor was clearly antagonistic throughout last season. I understand she has already written to the president of the American Federation of Musicians about this matter, and that, taken with her appeal to you, I regard as a sinister move probably directed by Romano to embarrass the orchestra.

One thing is certain. There is no sympathy with her amongst members of the present orchestra, who are all, I believe, intensely loyal to me and the organization. I, of course, did not say anything of this to Miss D'Amour when she saw me, as I considered what I did say was sufficient. I regret now that I did not make a thorough job of it.

Yours sincerely,

*Dwight Clark*

---



November 16th,  
1931.

Miss Renee d'Amour,  
3539 Hutchison Street,  
M o n t r e a l .

Dear Miss d'Amour,

I have your letter of the 10th  
November, enclosing copy of the reply you received  
from the American Federation of Musicians of the  
United States and Canada.

You have served the Faculty of  
Music of the University for a long time, and very  
faithfully, and I think the best we can all do is  
to forget this unpleasant occurrence. I want you  
to continue to work in harmony with Dean Douglas  
Clarke as a member of the staff of that Faculty.

With all good wishes,

I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal.

To Sir Arthur Currie, Principal  
McGill University.

Dear Sir Arthur,

As a sequel to the  
inquiry I caused the American  
Federation of Musicians to make  
about my exclusion from the  
ranks of the Montreal Orchestra,  
I take the liberty to herein enclose  
copy of the letter addressed to me  
by the president of the Federation,

Mr. Weber, embodying the result  
of said inquiry.

As you will please notice  
on perusal of the letter, the false-  
hood of the accusation brought  
against me is fully shown.

This result, along with  
your kind assurance that my  
position at Mc Gill would remain  
the same as heretofore, will put  
an end to the worries about  
which I took the liberty of  
encroaching upon your valuable

time.

With the expression of my  
most sincere gratitude, I remain  
yours respectfully

René D'Amour

Montreal, november the 10<sup>th</sup> 1931

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS  
of the United States & Canada.

New York, N.Y., November 4th/31.

Miss Renée D'Amour,  
3539 Hutchison Street,  
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Madam:-

With further reference to your communication of October, 16th, I might say that the entire matter has been taken up with the Secretary of the Montreal local and we find that there are no charges against you for playing with non-union or expelled members of that local. However, they are in possession of the fact that you did assist at a few radio engagements conducted by an expelled-member.

Inasmuch as Mr. Clark has full authority for the engaging of players for the Montreal Symphony Orchestra this Office is not in a position to interfere in Mr. Clark's rights in this matter. However, I would suggest that you take up the matter with Secretary Paquet of the Montreal local as this office is not in a position to force your employment by Mr. Clark.

I trust that his information is satisfactory.

Fraternally yours,

(signed) Jos. H. Weber,

per GPH.

C o p y

L..

To Sir Arthur W. Currie  
Principal of McGill University

Dear Sir,

I have now been a teacher  
at the McGill Conservatorium of  
Music for well nigh fifteen years.

Lately certain incidents  
occurred which have sensibly annoyed  
me and upset the happy course  
of events which has always existed  
during my connection with  
McGill.

Is it asking too much to solicit  
the favor of an interview, so that  
I may be able to submit my  
case to you personally?

If you are kind enough  
to grant this respectful request  
would you please advise me  
at your earliest convenience, as the  
matter is urgent, of the day, hour  
and place, you could receive me.

A telephone communication  
will suffice.

In the hope that I am  
not presuming of your kindness  
and that you will favorably con-  
sider my humble prayer, I have  
the honor to remain, Sir, yours  
very respectfully

(Miss) Renee D'Amour  
violinist

3539 Hutchison Street -  
Montreal

Tel. Harbour 8791

Montreal, October the 18<sup>th</sup>, 1931.



677, SHERBROOKE ST. W,  
MONTREAL.

Nov 5<sup>th</sup>

My Dear Mr Principal

Thank you very  
much for your kind letter.

I am glad that we have now  
got the orchestra going.

So far the spirit of the  
men is excellent. I only

trust it continues.

I have been asked by the  
committee to ask you if  
you would be willing to be  
our Honorary President. |

firmly would be very glad  
if you would be willing to  
act in this capacity. Your  
name used in connection with  
the orchestra would still further  
identify the orchestra or its  
activities with the University.  
I had intended asking you for  
an interview in regard to  
this matter, but I hope you  
will pardon my writing this  
request on the grounds of  
stress of work.

The Governor General is willing to  
become Patron -

With renewed thanks for your  
encouraging letter

Yours sincerely  
Douglas Clarke.

October 9th, 1930.

The Manager,  
The Orpheum Theatre,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of  
October 6th, Sir Arthur Currie will be glad  
to take a couple of tickets for the Sunday  
afternoon concert under the direction of Mr.  
Clarke, October 12th.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary to the Principal.

# Orpheum Theatre

OPERATED BY MOUNT ROYAL AMUSEMENT COMPANY LIMITED

OFFICE OF  
THE MANAGER

October 6, 1930.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
3450 McTavish Street,  
Montreal, Quebec.

Dear Sir Arthur,-

It is a distressing but compelling truth that the present generation is not a generation of music-lovers. They are not 'music-conscious' insofar as the finer composers are concerned. Strident jazz and blatant syncopation have superceded the glorious orchestrations and symphonies.

A group of seventy-five of the finest musicians in this city have formed The Montreal Concert Symphony Orchestra, feeling the civic need for a group of this type. They have leased the Orpheum Theatre for a series of Musical Matinees, the first of which will be given on Sunday afternoon, October 12th, at three o'clock. On Monday, Tuesday and Friday afternoons of the week of the 12th the identical concert will be given, and a similar group of four matinees -- with weekly changes of course -- will be given for a period of several weeks.

The first concert will be under the able direction of Mr. Douglas Clarke, Dean of Music of McGill University, and will feature as soloist that talented pianist, Mr. Paul de Markey. The program will include Wagner, Ravel, Tchaikowski's Fifth Symphony and symphonic variations of Cesar Franck.

We are soliciting the patronage of the most prominent people in Montreal to further this series and can assure you that the use of your name would be of inestimable value. May we hear from you in this connection? Your support would be appreciated.

Yours very truly,



Manager,  
ORPHEUM THEATRE.

K:M

November 4th, 1930.

Dean Douglas Clarke,  
Conservatorium of Music,  
McGill University.

My dear Dean Clarke,

I want to congratulate you upon your splendid work in connection with the Symphony Orchestra which is giving the public concerts at the Orpheum Theatre. This is indeed a move in the right direction, and I am very pleased indeed to note the support and encouragement you are now receiving.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal.

677, SHERBROOKE ST. W.,

MONTREAL.

Nov 11

Dear Mr. Principal

We are all  
extremely glad to have the  
assurance of your interest  
in the orchestra by your  
accepting the honorary  
Presidency - and I wish  
to send you our most  
appreciative thanks.  
With regard to the

Memorial service on Sunday.

Everything is arranged - the  
entire choir - with <sup>of St George's Church</sup> the

performers - will attend.

As there are no women in  
the choir - only men and  
boys (and I understand

they are singing extremely  
well) - the ~~effect~~ <sup>results</sup> should be

very satisfactory. Weathershed

will be at the organ. I only

regret that I cannot be

there myself.

Yours sincerely

Douglas Clarke.

November 7th, 1930.

Dean Douglas Clarke,  
Conservatorium,  
McGill University.

My dear Dean Clarke,

I have your letter of the 5th and will gladly serve in any capacity that you think will help your work and further the interests of the Orchestra. So if you wish me to be Honorary President I gladly accept. I am glad to know that His Excellency is willing to become patron.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal



MONTREAL ORCHESTRA INC.

ROOM 2001

MOUNT ROYAL HOTEL

Sir Arthur W. Currie. Montreal... November 16th... 1932.

Dear Sir:-

We acknowledge receipt of your cheque for \$... 10.00.....  
covering subscription as a supporting member and we thank you  
sincerely for your interest and generous support.

Yours truly,

MONTREAL ORCHESTRA INC.

per *Graham Donkwater*  
*A. W.*

Executive Committee

November 15, 1932.

The Secretary,  
Montreal Orchestra,  
Mount Royal Hotel,  
Montreal, P.Q.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing herewith a cheque for ten dollars (\$10.00) as a small contribution to the funds of the Montreal Orchestra. I hope to attend a goodly number of the concerts, but I cannot afford to purchase a season ticket.

Yours faithfully,

# OSWALD & DRINKWATER

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October  
21st,  
1932.

Gen. Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal, McGill University,  
Sherbrooke Street W.,  
MONTREAL, P.Q.

Dear Sir Arthur:-

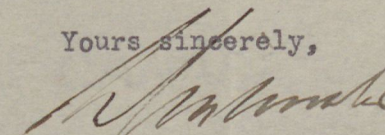
We are inviting our Honorary Presidents, yourself, Hon. L. A. David, and Hon. F. Rinfret, mayor, and their wives, to occupy a box at our first concert at His Majesty's Theatre, Sunday, October 30th, at 3 p.m.

We are particularly anxious to have you and Lady Currie there, not only because it is essential to have the first concert well sponsored, but also because the orchestra is going to play the funeral music from Wagner's "Gotterdammerung", as a tribute to the memory of the late Prof. Waugh.

Prof. Waugh was a great friend of the orchestra and also of Dean Clarke.

Col. Bovey will have the arrangements in charge. Would you kindly let him know if you and Lady Currie can be present?

Yours sincerely,



CGD:M.

October 22nd, 1932.

Graham Drinkwater, Esq.,  
Messrs. Oswald & Drinkwater,  
275 Notre Dame St. W.,  
Montreal, P. Q.

My dear Mr. Drinkwater,

Thank you for your letter of  
October 21st. I am grateful for the courtesy  
which you offer in connection with the opening  
concert of the Montreal Orchestra on Sunday,  
October the 30th, and shall be very glad to  
attend, particularly as you are going to pay  
respect and tribute to the memory of the late  
Professor Waugh, one of the most outstanding  
members of the staff of the University.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal

THE HEAD OFFICE OF THE  
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA  
MONTREAL

March 7, 1932.

General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
3450 McTavish St.,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur:

I am sending you herewith a notice of a concert that I and one or two friends of mine are organizing in aid of the orchestra.

I feel that it is almost a shame to pester one such as you, who has already done so much for the orchestra, for further help. However, your influence around Montreal is so great that I felt emboldened to write you this personal letter in addition to sending you this circular, and I hope you will pardon me for doing so. Any assistance that you can give us by bringing this concert to people's notice and persuading them to attend it will, I can assure you, be greatly appreciated.

If either you or any of your friends should wish to purchase tickets, if you would care to phone me at the Sun Life - Pl. 3131, local 146 - I shall be only too pleased to mail them to you.

Yours very sincerely,

*C. H. Herbert*

CHH/GJ

P.S. I am afraid this date coincides with the R.M.R.'s Assault at Arms, but it was the only practical date for us.  
*C.H.H.*

# MONTREAL ORCHESTRA

MEMBER'S No. 2090

*This is to certify that*

Sir Arthur W. Currie

IS A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING HAVING PAID  
YEARLY DUES FOR 1930-32 SEASON

DATE Feb. 24/32

L. H. Beaman  
Chairman  
Membership Committee

# MONTREAL ORCHESTRA INC.

ROOM 2001

MOUNT ROYAL HOTEL

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

TELEPHONE HARBOUR 1867

Montreal, February 4th, 1932.

Sir Arthur W. Currie,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

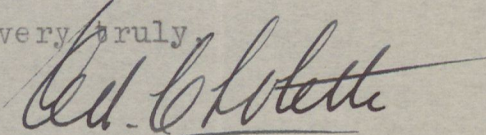
Dear Sir:-

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of your subscription of \$ 5.00 to the Montreal Orchestra Inc.

Your generous contribution gives the Executive Committee reason to hope for a successful musical season.

Through your kindness the causes of art and humanity are being served in Montreal, and the Committee and the Musicians join in thanking you for this very real proof of your interest and desire to help.

Yours very truly,

  
FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MONTREAL ORCHESTRA INC.

February 1, 1932.

H. L. Furst, Esq.,  
Chairman, Emergency Committee,  
Montreal Orchestra.  
Room 2002, Mount Royal Hotel.  
Montreal. P. Q.

Dear Sir,

I am returning herewith the book of tickets for the raffle of a 1932 Buick Straight 8 Car for the benefit of the Montreal Orchestra. This is the sort of thing at which I am no good. I have no doubt you could place the book in better hands.

Yours faithfully,



4628 St. Catherine St. W.  
Westmount, Jan. 18, 1932.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal of M<sup>c</sup>-Gill University  
Montreal.

Dear Sir -

Would it be possible  
for me to have a brief interview  
with you, concerning the  
incident which Mr. Norman  
Eager had reference to, in his  
reply to your appeal on behalf of  
the Montreal Symphony?

I may state, that several efforts to secure an appointment with Dean Clark were made last year, which proved unsuccessful.

I think that a few minutes of your valuable time given to a personal interview might prove to be of mutual benefit, as facts presented verbally usually offer a better understanding.

I sincerely appreciate your generous effort in endeavouring to establish the Montreal Symphony as our own permanent blessing.

It is a very worthy cause, a  
great necessity that our city  
must realize and I feel sure  
cannot fail to do so, with your  
kind interest and name heading  
the list.

I wish you all the loyal  
support of thousands, who have  
this same desire in heart and  
mind, also the support of those  
who have been heretofore indifferent  
in the cause of musical advancement.

Believe me to be

Sincerely yours.

Edith Eager Ross.

January 19th, 1932.

Norman Eager, Esq.,  
4312 Montrose Avenue,  
WESTMOUNT, Que.

Dear Mr. Eager:-

Thank you for your letter of the eighteenth and for your assurance of loyalty if only to the Faculty of Applied Science. However, I wish that loyalty could be extended to the whole University. It seems to me that this is a time when McGill graduates should stand together and solidly behind the University. I assure you that administering it in these days of depression is not an easy matter. While this is neither the time nor the place to discuss the financial affairs of the University and therefore its limitations, let me say this that the last campaign was held twelve years ago and before a dollar was collected every dollar raised was allotted. I always advocated another campaign in 1927, but we had to stand aside for hospitals and before our constituency was through paying for that the depression was on us. I would very much appreciate if some time you would come to see me in order that we might talk about the University and its problems.

With all good wishes,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Principal

January 2nd, 1932.

To the McGill graduates of Montreal,  
To the Governors and Members of Corporation.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am sure you are all pleased with the success that has attended the formation of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra by Douglas Clarke, Dean of the Faculty of Music of McGill University. That Professor Clarke should have taken advantage of the unemployment of so many first-class musicians to weld them together into an efficient organization shows his alertness and his keenness to help the cause of music in Montreal. That he should have held them together during the difficult period of the last eighteen months is a tribute to his power of organization and his personality.

The terms under which these concerts are given in His Majesty's Theatre are that the Theatre takes forty per cent. of the proceeds each week. This may be too high a percentage, and personally I think it is, but the contract has been made and must be observed. The other sixty per cent. is divided among the musicians, and gives them each, I understand, about six dollars a week. From a fund collected at the beginning of the season there has been taken a sum sufficient to make the musicians' weekly stipend up to fifteen dollars each, - a very small amount when it is appreciated that the Orchestra holds rehearsals on five days previous to its concert on the Sunday.

We are now told that there is only sufficient in the Treasury to maintain these concerts for another three weeks. To me it seems a strange thing that Montreal, claiming to be a city of culture, should be willing to see

this Orchestra break up, for it would mean that the things most worth while do not really appeal to our people.

I have been proud of the Faculty of Music, and particularly of its Dean, for taking the lead in seeking to raise the tone of musical taste and to develop a finer appreciation of the beauty of good music. It is right that the University should assume this position of leadership. If the project succeeds, credit will come to the University; if it fails, there is no doubt that the failure will be regarded as a reflection on the power of the University to stimulate the necessary interest. It may be that it is too difficult a task to develop in the space of two short seasons an enthusiasm for good music, but I am not willing to believe this.

I have been told that a Symphony Orchestra is a luxury in times of depression. This is not so. In times of stress particularly, nothing is more necessary and more helpful and inspiring than good music.

I am confining this appeal to McGill graduates and those most directly interested in the University. \$ must be raised within the next fortnight if these concerts are to extend beyond Sunday, January . Will you do what you can to help us in our effort to keep the Montreal Symphony Orchestra together? Contributions may be sent to

the Montreal Orchestra, Inc.,  
Room 2001,  
Mount Royal Hotel.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal

December 30, 1931

Mr. Graham Drinkwater,  
3511 Peel Street,  
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Drinkwater,

Sir Arthur Currie asks me to say that he thought of sending some such appeal as this to every graduate of the University in the City, and had it in mind to talk it over with you during the holiday season, but unfortunately he is laid up with tonsillitis.

He would be glad if you would read the letter over and let him have any suggestions, changes or criticisms you care to make.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary to the Principal

# CONSOLIDATED THEATRES LIMITED

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IMPERIAL - - - - QUEBEC, QUE.  
PRINCESS - - - - QUEBEC, QUE.

January 12, 1932.

General Sir Arthur Currie,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

Dear Sir:-

In a personal appeal made by you for the Montreal Orchestra, a copy of which was published in the Montreal Gazette of January 8th, you made the following statement, "The terms under which these concerts are given in His Majesty's Theatre are that the theatre takes forty per cent of the proceeds each week. (This may be too high a percentage, and personally I think it is, but the contract has been made and must be observed.)"

At the risk of encroaching on your very valuable time, may we take the liberty of giving you a few facts in regard to this statement.

His Majesty's Theatre is the sole remaining theatre devoted to the spoken drama in this City. In a great many communities, the theatre doing this class of work is substantially subsidized by the community, or by the drama-lovers, in order to keep the spoken drama alive.

We are doing this work without any help, not that we profess any philanthropy in connection therewith, but quite admit that it is with the hope of future profits.

*what?* In the ten concerts given by the Montreal Orchestra during the season of 1930-31, the total return to us was \$2660.70, and our total expenses in connection with same, \$2212.40, giving us a net profit of \$448.30 - or an average of \$44.83 per concert. These figures are available for yourself or your auditors, if you would care to check them.

We have always had the pleasure of numbering you amongst our most distinguished patrons and supporters, and we are quite sure that the wrong impression that has been created by your statement has been made by an insufficient knowledge of the facts, and we are certain that with your well-known reputation for "fair play", you will do everything in your power

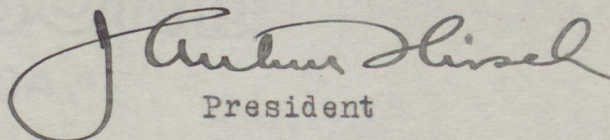


General Sir Arthur Currie,

to contradict this impression.

Yours very truly,

CONSOLIDATED THEATRES LIMITED

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Arthur Hirsch". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name "President".

President

January 13th,  
1932.

J. Arthur Hirsch, Esq.,  
President, Consolidated Theatres Limited,  
1449 St. Alexander Street,  
Montreal, P. Q.

Dear Sir,

Let me acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 12th. The letter I sent to the graduates of McGill University living in Montreal on behalf of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra was a personal letter, was not intended for publication and never should have been published without my consent. I do not know who was responsible for its appearance in the GAZETTE, certainly no member of the University staff. You will note that it did not appear in any other Montreal paper, as we asked that it be not published, and also you may have seen the letter that I wrote to the GAZETTE and which appeared in the issue of January 9th.

I am sorry if you feel that any comments of mine reflected unfairly on the management of His Majesty's Theatre. What I really had in mind was that perhaps the management of the Orchestra at the beginning of the season had made too heavy a commitment, in view of the difficulty of raising money to keep the Orchestra going, and I am sure that this is the interpretation that will be placed upon the remark.

I am fully aware of the debt the citizens of Montreal owe to His Majesty's theatre for its interest on behalf of the spoken drama, and I am sure everyone wishes you success, financial and otherwise. To my mind the effort of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra to develop a love for good music is also a most laudable work and deserves the most cordial interest and support of all those who believe

that things cultural are still worth while. In that respect our interests are identical, and I think it would be fair to claim that if the Montreal Symphony Orchestra becomes a permanent institution in Montreal its supporters are more likely to be the patrons of the theatre than any other class of people.

You know the struggle it has been to keep the Orchestra going and the appeals that have been made to individuals and institutions on its behalf. It would not have been out of the way for me to make an appeal to the theatre. In fact, you would lose nothing if you were able to announce that you were making no profit from the rental of the theatre for these Sunday concerts, in that way showing your good will towards this effort to give Montreal good music.

I am sorry if you feel that I have done you an injustice. Nothing was farther from my thoughts.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

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Yours faithfully,

Principal.

# CONSOLIDATED THEATRES LIMITED

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NATIONAL - - - MONTREAL, QUE.  
PALACE - - - - VERDUN, QUE.  
THE PREMIER - SHERBROOKE, QUE.  
VICTORIA - - - SHERBROOKE, QUE.  
ARLEQUIN - - - - QUEBEC, QUE.  
IMPERIAL - - - - QUEBEC, QUE.  
PRINCESS - - - - QUEBEC, QUE.

January 15, 1932

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

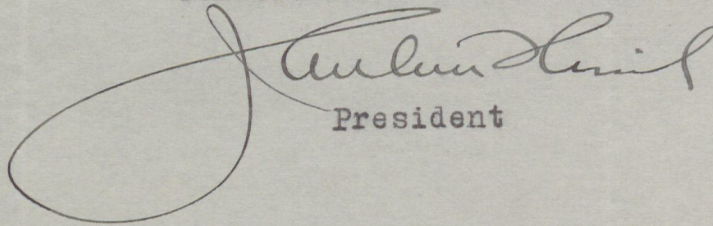
Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your letter  
of January 13th and your kind wishes re- His Majes-  
ty's Theatre.

Please be sure that we recognize the  
importance of the work of the Montreal Symphony  
Orchestra, and are doing everything in the power  
of our limited means to assist them.

Very truly yours,

CONSOLIDATED THEATRES LIMITED



President

JAH/V.

January 8th, 1932.

The Editor,  
The Gazette,  
M o n t r e a l.

Dear Sir:-

The publication in this morning's Gazette of my letter to the McGill graduates impells me to ask you to add, or to let me add, a word of explanation. It has been made clear from the inception that, although headed up by Dean Clarke as Conductor, the Orchestra was not a McGill affair, but a civic activity in which our French-speaking citizens were concerned equally with those of our own tongue.

When it became apparent that the position of the Orchestra was becoming desperate the suggestion was made that I make a public appeal through the press. Fearing that this might give the impression that we regarded the Orchestra as a McGill undertaking, I decided to write a personal letter to each of our four thousand graduates in Montreal. I hope that those who read my letter in the Gazette have regarded it in that light and have realized that it was directed to graduates alone. Graduates have a duty in the matter which I hope they will fulfil. This does not, of course, mean that other groups of citizens have no obligation. I think that they have, but I do not think that it is my place to appeal to them and I am not doing so.

I am sure that I have made my position clear and that those who, while deeply interested in the Orchestra, have no particular connection with this University will realize that we have no desire whatever either to control the Orchestra or to monopolize the credit for its performance.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

## LETTERS FROM

### Sir Arthur Currie's Appeal.

To the Editor of The Gazette:

Sir,—The publication in this morning's Gazette of my letter to the McGill graduates impels me to ask you to add, or to let me add, a word of explanation. It has been made clear from the inception that, although headed up by Dean Clarke as conductor, the orchestra was not a McGill affair, but a civic activity in which our French-speaking citizens were concerned equally with those of our own tongue.

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A. W. CURRIE,  
Principal.

McGill University, Jan. 8, 1932.



# CURRIE LAUNCHES ORCHESTRA DRIVE

Appeals to McGill Graduates  
and Others Interested for  
Support

\$7,000 IS SUM REQUIRED

Money Must Be Raised With-  
in Next Fortnight or Con-  
certs Will Terminate

January 17

A personal appeal from Sir Arthur Currie, principal of McGill University, has been sent to the graduates of Montreal and the members of the governing board and corporation asking them to assist in raising \$7,000 within the next fortnight—the sum needed if the concerts of the Montreal Orchestra are to be continued beyond Sunday, January 17. Contributions to this fund may be sent to the Montreal Orchestra, Inc., Room 2001, Mount Royal Hotel.

Sir Arthur's letter follows:

"I am sure you are all pleased with the success that has attended the formation of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra by Douglas Clarke, Dean of the Faculty of Music of McGill University. That Professor Clarke should have taken advantage of the unemployment of so many first-class musicians to weld them together into an efficient organization shows his alertness and his keenness to help the cause of music in Montreal: that he should have held them together during the difficult period of the last eighteen months is a tribute to his power of organization and to his personality.

"The terms under which these concerts are given in His Majesty's Theatre are that the theatre takes 40 per cent of the proceeds each week. (This may be too high a percentage, and personally I think it is, but the contract has been made and must be observed.) The other 60 per cent is divided among the musicians and gives them each about \$6.00 a week. From a fund collected at the beginning of the season there has been taken a sum sufficient to make the musicians' weekly stipend up to \$15 each—a very small amount when it is appreciated that the Orchestra holds rehearsals on five days previous to its concert on the Sunday.

"We are now told that there is only sufficient in the treasury to maintain these concerts for another three weeks. To me it seems a strange thing that Montreal, claiming to be a city of culture, should be willing to see this Orchestra break up, for it would mean that the things most worth while do not really appeal to our people.

"I have been proud of the Faculty of Music and particularly of its Dean, for taking the lead in seeking to raise the tone of musical taste and to develop a finer appreciation of the beauty of good music. It is right that the University should assume this position of leadership. If the project succeeds credit will come to the University: if it fails there is no doubt that the failure will be regarded as a reflection on the power of the University to stimulate the necessary interest. It may be that it is too difficult a task to develop in the space of two short seasons an enthusiasm for good orchestral music, but I am unwilling to believe this.

"I have been told that a Symphony Orchestra is a luxury in times of depression. This is not so. This Orchestra is the only factor sustaining more than fifty families. Furthermore, I hold that in times of stress, when nerves are ultra sensitive, nothing is more soothing, more necessary, more helpful, more inspiring, than good music.

"I am confining this appeal to McGill graduates and those most directly interested in the University. \$7,000 must be raised within the next fortnight if these concerts are to extend beyond Sunday, January 17th. Will you do what you can to help us in our effort to keep the Montreal Symphony Orchestra together?

"Ever yours faithfully,

(Signed) "A. W. CURRIE,

"Principal."

THE SOUTHAM PUBLISHING COMPANY LIMITED

1070 BLEURY STREET, MONTREAL

THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR  
THE OTTAWA CITIZEN  
THE CALGARY HERALD



THE EDMONTON JOURNAL  
THE WINNIPEG TRIBUNE  
THE VANCOUVER PROVINCE

January 11th, 1932.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur:

I am in receipt of your circular letter of the 6th instant calling attention to the financial needs of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

This is the third appeal which I have received for the same object. I answered the first one with a subscription of \$250. to the general funds of the Orchestra, and a subscription of four tickets for all of the concerts, and feel that with these subscriptions I have met my obligation in full for the current season.

Yours sincerely,

*T. D. Southam*

FNS/EC

January  
Twelfth  
1932.

F. N. Southam Esq.,  
President, The Southam Publishing Company,  
1070 Bleury Street,  
Montreal.

My dear Fred:

I have your letter of yesterday.

I am sorry I bothered you. Certainly you have done your share, more than your share, but you will, I hope, appreciate that my circular was addressed to the Governors, Members of Corporation, Graduates and staff of McGill University. It was quite a task to get out those four thousand letters, and I did not have time to examine critically the list.

With all good wishes,

I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

September 23rd, 1931.

Dear Captain Lascelles:-

The Montreal Orchestra Association was organized last year and was responsible for arranging a series of orchestral concerts in His Majesty's Theatre. The inception of the work was really due to Dean Clarke of our Faculty of Music who has, for the last year, acted as conductor of the orchestra. The performances improved continuously and have received the very highest praise from all who heard them, either over the radio or directly. Indeed, the orchestra is definitely stated by experts to be second to none in Canada and few elsewhere. The present chairman is Mr. E. R. Decary, who is being succeeded by Mr. E. W. Beatty.

As honorary president I have been requested to ask Their Excellencies for the honour of their patronage and I trust that they will be willing to grant this.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

Captain A. F. Lascelles,  
Private Secretary to the Governor General,  
Government House,  
O t t a w a.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
OTTAWA.

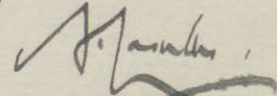
Office of the Secretary  
to the Governor-General

September 24th 1931

My dear Sir Arthur,

I have submitted your letter of  
September 23rd to His Excellency. Their Excellencies  
will have much pleasure in giving their Patronage  
to the Montreal Orchestra Association, as you suggest.

Yours very truly,



Secretary to the ~~Governor-General~~.

General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G.,  
McGill University  
MONTREAL.

June 17, 1931.

E. W. Beatty, Esq., K. C.,  
Chancellor,  
McGill University.

Dear Chancellor,

I have just had a chat with Mr. Decary about the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, and from our conversation I am convinced that it would be helpful in every way if you would accept for a year the Presidency of that organisation.

Decary seems very anxious that this organisation should stand for a community effort in every way. I think it was very well demonstrated last winter that the Orchestra is a good orchestra, but also that it, apparently, could not be well enough supported by the English alone to enable it to thrive. It owes much, I know, to the generosity of the C.P.R. - and that is, to yourself.

Apparently, among some of the French, the group where Mesdames David and Casgrain are prominent, there is a certain amount of jealousy that the English element is so active. You and I know that our friend David would like to be looked upon as a great patron of the arts and that he would prefer to think it altogether a French undertaking. Decary thinks, and I agree with him, that this year the president should be one who is recognised as an outstanding English-speaking Canadian. You are his choice, and he believes that you would be welcome to the French element.

I think it does mean something to the University to have the leader of such an Orchestra one so prominent in our Department of Music as Professor Clarke. I hope that you will accept the Presidency, -and possibly you might insist that Decary be Vice President.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal.

THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY CO.

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT

MONTREAL

..... June 18th, 1931. .... 193

General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G.,

To note.

*Genl. Currie*



CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT

MONTREAL

June 18th, 1931.

E. R. Decary, Esq.,  
134 St. James Street West,  
Montreal, Que.

Dear Mr. Decary:

I have now heard from Sir Arthur Currie, whose opinion is that it would be highly desirable if I were to accept the Presidency of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra for one year.

I am willing to do this but not to have any publicity accompany it. I know that the duties of the position are largely honorary and, therefore, not exacting, but in times like these it is highly desirable that the impression should not go abroad either that McGill University is officially identified with the Orchestra or that I am loading myself up with outside duties when commercial and railway conditions demand my full time. I presume, therefore, it would be quite satisfactory if the Committee know of the appointment, but I would have to make it a condition that no mention of it should be made in the press, at least at the present time.

Sincerely yours,

## ORCHESTRA GOING OVER RADIO SOON

First Broadcast Scheduled to  
Take Place on Saturday,  
February 21

### WINNIPEG TO HALIFAX

Conductor Douglas Clarke  
Will Give Modern English  
Music Full Share of  
Attention

The two Toronto Symphony Orchestras which are now on the air will, in the near future, be subject to comparison with the new Montreal Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Douglas Clarke, dean of the faculty of music at McGill University which will broadcast an hour of music on Saturday afternoons, from 5.30 to 6.30, eastern standard time, commencing February 21, over a network of stations stretching from Winnipeg to Halifax, N. S.

This has been made possible by the Canadian Pacific Railway which has decided to add to its already extensive weekly programmes a fire-side symphony hour covering eastern Canada and also a series of orchestral concerts, by the band of the Princess Patricia Light Infantry, over a network covering western Canada. These additions to the Canadian Pacific programmes will be welcomed not only by the listening public but also by the practicing musicians who are facing a considerable decrease in employment owing to the present conditions.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Fireside Symphony Hour will be broadcast from Tudor Hall over the following stations, linked together by the broadcast transmission system of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's Telegraphs: CKAC, Montreal; CKCO, Ottawa; CHNS, Halifax; CFBO, Saint John; CFNB, Fredericton; CHRC, Quebec; CKGW, Toronto; CIGC, London, and CFCO, Chatham. CKY, Winnipeg.

The orchestra which Mr. Clarke to conduct for the Canadian Pacific broadcasts was founded in Montreal last autumn under the name of the Montreal Concert Symphony Orchestra and gave its first performance at the Orpheum Theatre on Sunday, October 12. It was founded with the object of meeting present conditions among practicing musicians and is financially assisted by the Montreal Orchestra Association, a body of music lovers in this city, which was founded shortly after the orchestra itself. The voluntary contributions and membership fees of the Association go towards the upkeep of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

#### GUEST CONDUCTOR.

At its first performance, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra invited Mr. Douglas Clarke to act as guest conductor and after this performance he was asked to accept the position of honorary conductor. He has conducted the orchestra since then every Sunday afternoon, first at the Orpheum Theatre, and since Sunday, January 25, at His Majesty's Theatre.

Since its inception the orchestra has played many full symphonic works and acquired an admirable degree of technical perfection. It has also won its spurs in the difficult task of accompanying soloists, and some of those who have appeared at the Sunday afternoon concerts this winter have been Paul de Marky, pianist, Joan Elwes, soprano, and Cedia Brault, soprano.

The programmes which have been projected for the broadcast performance are not dissimilar in structure to those of the Sunday afternoon concerts, with this difference, that only single movements out of symphonies will be played instead of complete works, owing to the time limit imposed on broadcasts. In some instances two consecutive movements will be rendered out of one symphony, especially out of the shorter symphonies of Mozart and Haydn. This method will give the orchestra an opportunity to play some of the brilliant and breathless finales of the 18th century symphonies, which would lose much of their effectiveness were they not preceded by the minuettos and trios.

It is Mr. Clarke's intention to have a definite chronological order in each of his programmes. Generally speaking, each programme will open with a work or part of a work by a 17th or 18th century composer, such as Bach, Handel, Haydn or Mozart, continue with Beethoven or Brahms, then on to the later composers of the 19th century, and conclude with the work of modern composers.

It is evident from the programmes that Mr. Clarke intends to give mod-

ern English music its full share in these concerts.

Such names as Holst, Grainger and Elgar appear on the projected programme and it is also understood that a composition of Mr. Clarke himself will be performed during one of the broadcast concerts. There will also be some example of early English composers and the general impression received from perusing the programmes for the first ten concerts is that the orchestra is not only able to render works of the highest order, but also that it has achieved a remarkable range of subject considering the comparatively short period it has been in existence.

# Leader Controls Musicians With His Deft Baton

## Douglas Clarke Pleads For Support For Better Music

PICTURE of a musician: Wispy tobacco smoke drifting to the ornate ceiling of the Mount Royal Hotel ballroom; squealing of preparatory violins against the low-toned complaint of the basses and the horns; brassy rotundity of the tuba cutting a patch of gloom out of the far corner—and Mr. Douglas Clarke.

Meet Mr. Douglas Clarke, electromagnetic conductor of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. He is conducting a rehearsal of Sunday's programme at the moment, but that does not matter. He can do a lot of things at once. Conductors have to be like that.

\* \* \*

HE taps his music stand and the violins and the horns and the 'cellos give a last despairing fling of melancholy resignation and taper off into the silence he commands. The fiddles begin, quietly, wistfully, clear and sweet as the morning lark, are joined in a moment or two by the full-throated resonance of the brasses, there is an occasional, furtive cymbal, a boom from the drum, and suddenly, dynamically, the whole orchestra sweeps into being under that magic baton.

The baton strokes the rhythm, cajoles it; represses a too-jubilant bass fiddle, if there can be such a thing as a too-jubilant bass fiddle; pulls out of retirement a refined flute. And behind the baton is Mr. Douglas Clarke, like a potter at his wheel, taking a great deal of individual music and shaping it into a symphony.

\* \* \*

HE is warm and disordered. His jacket lies at his feet and his vest is unbuttoned. A wisp of black hair strays across his face but he does not appear to notice. He is more concerned with ensemble.

"La-de-da-de-da" he sings above the noise of the instruments. "That's it now — rather more suave. Good. Watch that third beat. Like this . . . La-de-da-da-da. Now again."

\* \* \*

"WHAT we want," he says, "is listeners. An orchestra cannot play to empty benches as a radio can. Attendances at our Sunday concerts are not so good as they might be, and the people of Montreal would help us by just listening to us.

"I really do think that it is better to listen to even a second-rate orchestra in the flesh than the greatest players in the world by radio. With radio, you do not get 'actual' reproduction. Some of the instruments get crowded out, and, of course, that makes a tremendous difference."

He tapped his stand again, and slowly, the whole group swung off into a glorious burst of melody.

It will be a tragedy if Montreal should lose this.

J. M.

Sent Dec-3.

December 3rd, 1930.

Letters sent out re Committees of the Montreal Orchestra Association.

Main Committee.

- ✓ Walter Stewart, W.C. Macdonald & Co., 240 St. James St.  
✓ J.W. McConnell, St. Lawrence Sugar Refinery, 215 St. James St.  
✓ ~~A.J. Nesbitt~~, Nesbitt, Thompson & Co., St. James St. *declines*  
✓ John Irwin, McColl Frontenac Oil Co. Ltd., 360 St. James St.  
✓ ~~P.R.~~ Walters, 6 Chelsea Place.

taken

}

Finance Committee.

- ✓ Sir Andrew Macphail, 2016 Peel St.  
✓ J.W. Cook, 3509 Peel St.  
R.P. Jellett, Royal Trust Co. 105 St. James St. *declines*  
Harold Morgan, Henry Morgan & Co. Ltd., St. Catherine St.

taken

taken

Orchestra Committee.

- ✓ W.A. Merrill, K.C., 240 St. James St., *accepts*  
✓ Graham Drinkwater, 3511 Peel St. *accepts*

Press, Publicity & Printing of Programmes Committee.

- ✓ B.M. Hallward, 3525 Mountain St. *accepts*

A. RAMSAY & SON COMPANY  
MONTREAL TORONTO WINNIPEG VANCOUVER

CABLE ADDRESS 'RAMSON'  
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MAKERS OF  
PAINTS & VARNISHES  
SINCE 1842



HEAD OFFICE  
INSPECTOR STREET  
MONTREAL

MONTREAL December 29th, 1930.

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C., M.G., K.C.B.  
McGill University,  
Sherbrooke St. West,  
MONTREAL.

Dear Sir Arthur,

Your good letter of December 3rd  
re the Symphony Concerts, has been received by the  
writer, and I am pleased to say that I consider it  
an honour to be requested to go upon your special  
committee, and thereby do accept with pleasure.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Walter B. Ramsay

WALTER A. MERRILL, K.C.  
ARCHIBALD STALKER  
JEAN LETOURNEAU

DUFF & MERRILL  
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS  
GUARDIAN BUILDING  
240 ST. JAMES STREET W.  
MONTREAL

4th. December 1930.

CABLE ADDRESS "HUNTLIDUFF"  
WESTERN UNION CABLE CODE

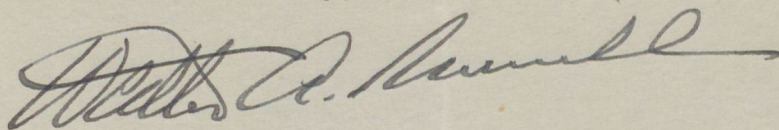
SIR ARTHUR W. CURRIE, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
PRINCIPAL - MCGILL UNIVERSITY,  
M O N T R E A L.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR:

I thank you for your letter of  
the 3rd. inst., inviting me to serve on the  
Committee of the Montreal Orchestra Association.

It is with pleasure that I  
accept, as I am very much interested in the  
Orchestra and shall be only too glad to do  
what I can to help this most important move-  
ment.

Yours faithfully,



1/M:

R. P. JELLETT  
% THE ROYAL TRUST COMPANY  
MONTREAL

Fourth  
December,  
1930.

General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

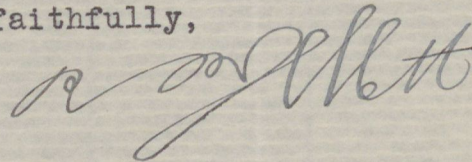
Re: MONTREAL ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

My dear Sir Arthur,

Referring to your letter of the 3rd instant, I am flattered that you should have thought of me for the Finance Committee of the Montreal Orchestra Association, but after careful thought I have come to the conclusion that I cannot undertake additional responsibilities of this nature. The demands on my time are heavy, not only at the office but outside of it through the Montreal Board of Trade, the Montreal Council of Social Agencies, particularly in regard to unemployment relief, and many other matters.

I will, of course, be a supporter of the Orchestra, although, unfortunately, I must decline to be a member of its Finance Committee.

Yours faithfully,





# OSWALD & DRINKWATER

STOCK AND BOND BROKERS

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PLEASE ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE

P. O. BOX 664

December  
Fifth,  
1930.

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
The Principal and Vice-Chancellor,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, P.Q.

## SYMPHONY CONCERTS.

Dear Sir Arthur:-

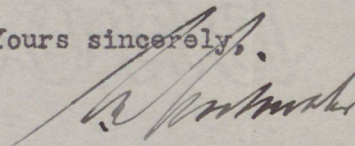
In reply to your letter of the 3rd inst., I shall be very glad indeed to act on the committee of the Montreal Orchestra Association, as I think this is something which deserves general support. I think Mr. Clarke deserves a great deal of credit for the start he has made, and from now on it seems to me that everybody in this City who is at all interested in music should get together to make the orchestra a complete success.

I shall certainly do what I can.

With kind regards, and wishing you and Lady Currie a very happy trip,

I am,

Yours sincerely,



CGD.-M.

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MONTREAL

December 5th 1930

Sir Arthur W. Currie,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

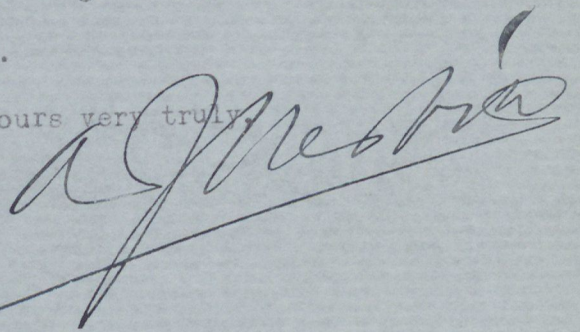
Dear Sir Arthur:

In reply to your letter of the 3rd instant asking me to become a member of the Main Committee in connection with a Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

I appreciate your kindness in asking me to join you, but have made it a rule not to go on any Committees.

With kindest regards.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. G. Nesbitt". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a long, thin horizontal line that extends across the lower right portion of the page.

HENRY MORGAN & CO LIMITED  
COLONIAL HOUSE  
MONTREAL

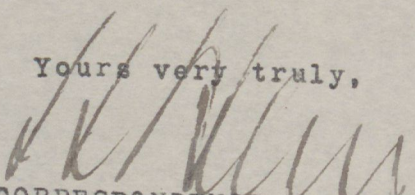
December 8, 1930

Sir Arthur W. Currie,  
The Principal and Vice-Chancellor,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir :-

I am instructed by Mr. Harold M. Morgan to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 3rd. December regarding the Montreal Orchestra Association and to inform you that he has already answered by telephone to Mr. Riley.

Yours very truly,

  
-CORRESPONDENCE MANAGER-

H.W.CARR/AK.

JOHN IRWIN  
ROYAL BANK BUILDING  
MONTREAL

December 8th, 1930

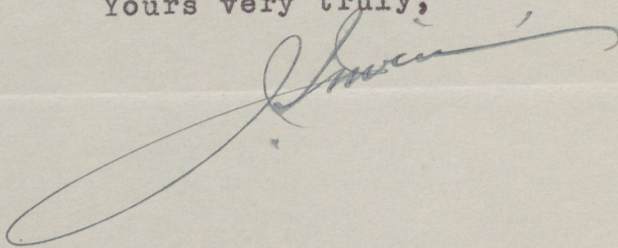
Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
The Principal and Vice-Chancellor,  
McGill University,  
MONTREAL.

Dear Sir Arthur:

I duly received your letter of December 3rd, in which you asked me to consent to your invitation to become a member of the Main Committee of the Montreal Orchestra Association.

In view of the fact that my duties as President of McColl-Frontenac Oil Company entails a great deal of travelling and also that my other affiliations when at home take up so much of my time, I regret exceedingly that I must decline.

Yours very truly,

A large, elegant handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Irwin', is written over the typed name 'Yours very truly,'.

/J.

*Cook and Magee*  
*Advocates, Barristers, etc.*

JOHN W. COOK, K.C.  
ALLAN A. MAGEE, K.C.  
T. B. HENEY, K.C.  
W. C. NICHOLSON  
HUGH E. O'DONNELL

*Cable Address "MAGEE"*  
*Western Union Code*

*Transportation Building*

*Montreal* December 4th, 1930.

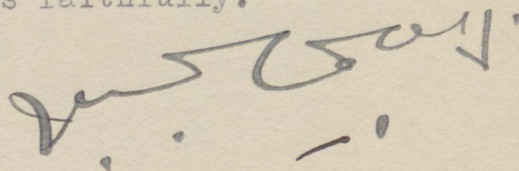
Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur:-

I have your letter of the 3rd instant and will be pleased to act as a member of the Finance Committee in connection with the affairs of the Montreal Orchestra Association. It will be a pleasure to be of any small assistance that I can in a matter in which, in common with many others, I take a great interest.

I trust you will have a most pleasant and successful visit to India and with very kind regards to Lady Currie and yourself, I am,

Yours faithfully.



Walter Molson & Co.

485 McGill Street

Montreal December 15, 1930.

REAL ESTATE  
INSURANCE  
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Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Sherbrooke Street W.,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur,

Re: SYMPHONY CONCERTS.

I received your letter of the 3rd inst., after your departure from the City, and while I almost always accept a request from you as a command which it is a pleasure and honour to carry out, I frankly would prefer to be left off this particular committee.

Apart from my being particularly pressed just now with the Montreal Board of Trade and the various committees and commissions it involves, I am not keen on serving jointly with French-Canadian citizens in a matter which calls for organizing, and raising money, as my experience shows that the work and the paying usually fall on the English-speaking members.

I also understand that this scheme is partly fostered by musicians who are out of work and who organized a strike a few months ago.

I am sure you will forgive me for desiring to pass up this particular project under the circumstances.

Yours faithfully,

Walter Molson

WM/EB.

December 10, 1930.

Mr. Walter A. Merrill,  
240 St. James Street W.,  
Montreal. P. Q.

Dear Mr. Merrill,

May I acknowledge your letter of the 4th December, which came in too late to reach Sir Arthur before his departure for India. I know he will be very pleased indeed that you have consented to serve on the Montreal Orchestra Committee, and I have passed your acceptance on to Mr. George Reilley, who is responsible for getting the Committee together.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary to Sir Arthur C urrie.

December 10,  
1930.

Mr. Graham Drinkwater,  
Messrs. Oswald and Drinkwater,  
275 Notre Dame Street W.  
Montreal, P. Q.

Dear Mr. Drinkwater,

As your letter of the fifth instant did not reach Sir Arthur before his departure for India, may I take the liberty of acknowledging it on his behalf. I know he will be very happy to hear that you have consented to act on the Montreal Orchestra Committee.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary to Sir Arthur Currie.



Decmeber First,

1930.

General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

MONTREAL ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION  
Symphony Concerts

Dear General:

As you no doubt know, these concerts are growing in popularity every Sunday, but of course the receipts from the sale of tickets are not adequate to pay salaries and expenses. Bovey may have mentioned to you that Miss Shaughnessy and Madame David have accepted positions on a subscription campaign and are endeavoring to get 20,000 people in Montreal to subscribe \$2.00 each, thus becoming members of the Association.

To run the affairs of the Association properly committees composed of both French and English have been formed. The Frenchmen have responded very readily, but, as you can imagine, it is a very much more difficult job to interest Englishmen. We must get a good type of Englishman to hold our own with the cultured Frenchmen who are taking great interest in this movement. The average man when asked to interest himself in music immediately says No, but he would hesitate to refuse if the invitation to join a committee came from you as one of the Honorary Presidents of the Association, and this is to ask if you could, before you go, have letters dictated to the gentlemen mentioned on the attached list, asking them if they would serve on the committees indicated.

I did not realize you were leaving town so soon and hesitate to add to your difficulties, but it would be tremendously appreciated if you could have your secretary write these letters. *A love over the answers to me -*

Thanking you in anticipation of anything you can do for us and wishing you the best of luck on your important mission, believe me, with kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Geo. C. Riley.

# East Eager Ross

---

1. a pupil of Mr. Hungerford
2. On our staff (junior teaching) same position as Miss ~~Hungerford~~ Stubbs.

## Resigned

Several years ago, because she felt she was not getting enough in fees.

3. This fall went to Mr. Tupper about getting back but Mr. Clarke felt that they already had enough teachers - she promised to bring students, but they all do that.

1111 #  
MSc.

4312 Montrase Avenue  
Westmount, Que.

Jan 18 1932.

Sir Arthur Currie G.C.M.G., K.C.B.  
Principal + Vice-Chancellor  
McGill University.

Dear Sir,

Kindly accept my thanks  
for your long courteous letter of the  
15<sup>th</sup> inst. I have shown it to Mrs. Edith  
Eager Ross on whose behalf my  
original letter to you was written.  
As she is the one vitally interested  
I suggested that she write you and  
acquaint you with the details of her  
case.

You doubtlessly know that she studied  
at the Conservatorium under Mr. Hungenford,  
later returning there to teach. She resigned

An occasion presented itself whereby I studied graduate work at one of the larger American Universities. Might I say right here that Mc Gill's Science Course is as good and better than that found in American Colleges. The late Dean of the Science Faculty discussed with me on many occasions the detrimental practice of inbreeding in the University. Your views in this matter are identical with mine. I made an investigation of the standards of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. I found that inbreeding in the staff of that famous University has caused a serious deterioration of the standards of the studies. But then this is not my argument and I did not mean to convey to you that Mc Gill should employ only Mc Gill graduates. New blood is always advantageous. What I did mean to get across was the fact that capable musicians from the University should

resigned from the staff as she found it to her advantage to teach privately. Some few years ago she gave a concert in Windsor Hall. She was exceedingly well received on that occasion, so much so in fact that she has worked up a complete new programme which she intends to carry out in Montreal at an early date.

The above is not written in a boastful strain but to convey to you the fact that Mrs. Ross is not an inexperienced novice and that her views relating to the musical world should carry some weight. She is quite prepared to substantiate in detail my arguments set forth in my previous letter.

I resigned from the Graduated Society three years ago for personal reasons which I prefer not to discuss. My loyalty to the Faculty of Applied Science however is in no way impaired.

be given a chance to perform with  
 a Mr. Gill Orchestra particularly when  
 they are superior to imported artists.  
 This matter however will be put before  
 you by one much better equipped  
 with musical knowledge than myself.

Again may I extend my sincere  
 thanks for your very kind letter and  
 the valuable time you have spent  
 in its writing

yours very truly  
 Norman Eger.

Pleasant  
 interview  
 to-day auto.  
 Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

January 19th, 1932.

Mrs. Edith Eager Ross,  
4628 St. Catherine Street, West,  
WESTMOUNT, Que.

Dear Madam:-

In reply to your letter of the 18th, let me say that I should be very glad to have you come to see me either on Friday afternoon or on Saturday morning. If you will telephone to my office, Marquette 9181, Mrs. McMurray, my secretary, will gladly arrange the hour.

Yours faithfully,

Principal

The  
**Graduates' Society of McGill University**

Publishers of "The McGill News"



January 15, 1932.

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

MEMO RE NORMAN EAGER, 4312 Montrose Ave., Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur:

Our records show the following information:

NORMAN EAGER, B.Sc. '22 in Civil Engineering, joined the Graduates' Society on graduation, and continued as a member until April 1930, when he resigned, and has since failed to respond to formal requests to belong to the Society.

GRADUATES' ENDOWMENT FUND, no payments.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY CENTENNIAL ENDOWMENT FUND, 1921. (Mr. Eager was then a student at the University). no payments.

EMPLOYMENT, He is employed in the department of Development, Shawinigan Engineering Company, 107 Craig St. W., Montreal. Phone La.6281.

INFORMATION FROM PROF. R. E. JAMIESON, Professor Jamieson was asked if he remembered Mr. Eager while a student, and his recollection of him was that he was a quiet and sensible lad.

REPORT FROM ARTHUR PATTERSON, B.Sc. '14, Mr. Patterson, who is also an employee of the Shawinigan Engineering Company, says that he has not seen Mr. Eager very frequently of late, and when asked if Mr. Eager had expressed any criticism of the University, he said that he had not noticed in his conversations with him, any indication of this attitude.

INFORMATION FROM J. G. NOTMAN, B.Sc.'22 (classmate). Mr. Notman says that Mr. Eager is known as a good fellow, was formerly sports writer for one of the Montreal newspapers, and



given to expressing his views. He married a Miss Shaw, whose parents made a considerable fortune in the piano manufacturing business, and left their money to her, so that Mr. Eager enjoys a considerable financial independence. He has not been known to especially criticise the University.

H. M. MACKAY SCHOLARSHIP FUND, no payments.

Faithfully yours,

*A. B. Blasco.*

GJW

Executive Secretary

1) Dean Clark says he never has been approached by anyone whom he knew as a McGill graduate with a request to play with his orchestra.

2) He is inundated with requests to play and sing, and to perform manuscript music.

WESTMOUNT, January 13th 1932

In this connection Dean Clark must be the judge.

3)

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir:

Your circular letter dated January 6th concerning the Montreal Symphony Orchestra has presented me the opportunity of expressing how one of many of the Graduates and adherents of McGill University feel toward that organization.

The Conservatorium of Music, under the direction of Dr Perrin, turned out some very capable musicians. These artists are still in Montreal and are teaching in an effort to make a living. A good number of them are excellent performers in public. I am speaking now of pianists in particular. I understand that Dean Clarke has been approached in an effort of having these pianists play with his orchestra at one time or another during the season. In one case, I am led to believe, Dean Clarke sanctioned the performance of a symphony by an outside artist when he had previously refused to perform the same work with a local artist.

*Symphony is only a composition, nothing in it.*

It has always been my understanding that the staff of McGill University made every effort to support McGill Graduates. Of recent years I have had occasion to revise this feeling.

The instance cited in this letter occurred to a person with whom I am closely connected. I know that others have had some

*Solovets  
Eileen Ballou  
piano  
violin  
Gust Onderch  
of staff*

*The only orchestral work which I know of written by McGill Graduate Frank Hanson.*

similar experience. Consequently, I cannot see why the McGill Graduates should support this body when the leader appears to be biassed in favour of outsiders.

I sincerely trust that you will not take this as an impertinence on my part, but I do think that the opinion of a number of graduates of the Conservatorium should be put before you.

Believe me to be,

Yours very truly,

*Norman Eager*

N.A.Eager,  
4312 Montrose Avenue.

January 15, 1931.

Norman Eager, Esq.,  
4312 Montrose Avenue,  
Westmount, P. Q.

Dear Mr. Eager,

Let me acknowledge your letter of January 13th, inspired by my appeal to McGill graduates on behalf of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. Please be assured, Mr. Eager, that I do not regard your letter as in any way an impertinence. I am at all times pleased to discuss matters pertaining to the welfare of the University, with its graduates.

Let me try to deal with your charges.

You say that pianists who are graduates of McGill have approached Dean Clarke with a request to play in his Orchestra at one time or another. The Dean tells me that although he has been inundated with requests from parties who wish to play or to sing with his Orchestra, none of the applicants has let it be known to him that he or she was a graduate of McGill.

You say you are led to believe that "Dean Clarke sanctioned the performance of a symphony by an outside artist when he had previously refused to perform the same work with a local artist." I take it that this means that some local artist asked to be permitted to play the solo part in a certain performance and that the Dean refused and that he later put on the same number using an outside artist. The Dean says he has no recollection of this being the case.

You say you cannot see why McGill graduates should support the Symphony Orchestra when the leader appears to be biased in favour of outsiders. The Dean denies that he is in any way biased in favour of outsiders and says that he would be only too happy to use local artists - but, of course, as the leader of the Orchestra he must be the judge of the merits of those who seek to perform. He refers me to the fact that he has had as soloist Miss Ellen Ballon, who is a graduate of this University; that next Sunday the solo violinist will be Mr. Onderet, who is a member of the staff, and that the only new orchestral work which the Orchestra intends to perform was written by a McGill graduate, Mr. Frank Hanson. This would not seem to indicate a bias on his part in favour of outsiders. I know that many have written musical compositions which they have asked him to perform and that he has been forced to refuse, for various reasons, many of these compositions. The last he refused was one written by a very close personal friend of his own.

You say that the instance cited in your letter (but as to what instance you mean is not clear) concerns a person with whom you are closely connected and that you know that others have had similar experience. I am sure it would be most helpful if you would disclose the identity of the one concerned, because, and I repeat it, the Dean is positive that he knows of no request from a McGill graduate which he has refused.

Had you been a member of the Graduates' Society I would have asked that body to investigate your charges.

I am one of those who believe that Dean Clarke has rendered a wonderful service to Montreal in his endeavour to give this city a good symphony orchestra, and I believe his efforts should receive warm support and commendation. You say that you have had to revise your impression that the staff of McGill should make every effort to support McGill graduates. A natural corollary of that is that McGill graduates should make every effort to support the staff of the University.

I do not mind telling you that I am often greatly embarrassed by graduates insisting on receiving appointments to the staff of the University: just now it is suggested that I add one who graduated a few years ago to a staff that is already complete. The financial resources of the University do not permit me to increase that staff, and I see no reason why I should dismiss a teacher who has been rendering good service for years to make way for anyone, whether a graduate or not. I think anyone would agree that the staff of McGill contains as many graduates as could reasonably be employed. Inbreeding in a university

is just as fatal as inbreeding amongst a herd of cattle. It would not be in the best interests of McGill to have none but McGill graduates on its staff. I may be blind, but I have never seen any evidence on the part of members of the staff of the University to deal unfairly with graduates, or that would indicate an unwillingness to support McGill graduates. Have you ever examined the constituency of the staff of McGill and noticed the very high percentage of McGill graduates on it?

I would not care to have you retain a wrong impression, and I suggest that you boldly go to Dean Clarke and discuss the matter further with him. Your good will to the University is earnestly solicited.

Ever yours faithfully.

Principal