

## **Finding Aid to the *Bernard Gagnon Fonds***

**Collection number: MDML - 027**

Finding Aid prepared by: Sharon Rankin

Edited by:

Latest Revision date: November 24, 2016

---

### **Collection Summary**

**Title:**

*Bernard Gagnon Fonds*

**Span Dates:**

1975-2013

**Creator:**

The collection was donated by Bernard Gagnon.

**Collection size:**

100 pieces

**Languages:**

The collection material is in English and French.

**Repository:**

Marvin Duchow Music Library, Schulich School of Music, McGill University, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 527 Sherbrooke St., Montreal, Quebec, Canada

514-398-4695

<http://www.mcgill.ca/library/branches/music>

**Abstract:**

The *Bernard Gagnon Fonds* consists of audio recordings, including interviews, manuscripts, correspondence, and event documentation of Bernard Gagnon, a Montreal-based electroacoustic composer who recorded his first electroacoustic pieces at McGill's Schulich School of Music's Electronic Music Studio (EMS) in the 1980s.

**Selected Search Terms:**

The following subject terms (LCSH) have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's catalogue.

The collection entry can be found at:

---

**Administrative Information**

**Provenance:** Gift from Bernard Gagnon in 2015.

**Accruals:** No further accruals are expected.

**Processing History:** The *Bernard Gagnon Fonds* was first processed in November 2016 by Sharon Rankin. This finding aid was prepared using Microsoft Word 2010.

**Copyright Status:** The status of copyright on the contents of The *Bernard Gagnon Fonds* is governed by the Copyright Law of Canada.

**Restrictions:** The *Bernard Gagnon Fonds* is open to research. Certain restrictions on use, copying and/or publication of materials may apply. Researchers are advised to contact the Marvin Duchow Music Library prior to visiting. Cynthia Leive, head librarian at [cynthia.leive@mcgill.ca](mailto:cynthia.leive@mcgill.ca).

**Preferred Citation:** Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: The *Bernard Gagnon Fonds*, box number, folder number, series number, subseries number, Marvin Duchow Music Library, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec. (For example: *Bernard Gagnon Fonds*, Box 1, BG 1/S.1/i, Marvin Duchow Music Library, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec.)

**Scope and Content Note**

The *Bernard Gagnon Fonds* contains the work of Bernard Gagnon a Montreal-based electroacoustic composer and performer who was active in the avant garde scene in the city during the 1970s and 1980s. He composed his first electroacoustic pieces at McGill's Schulich School of Music's Electronic Music Studio (EMS) and the collection includes a 2012 Tenzier recording of these works.

The *Bernard Gagnon Fonds* is divided into 5 series and contains approximately 100 items. The majority of the collection consists of audio recordings, including interviews, manuscripts, correspondence, concert posters and programs.

## Biographical Sketch:

Bernard Gagnon was born in 1953 and participated in the Quebec avant-garde electroacoustic music scene for two decades. As a young Montreal-based musician, he participated in a seminar on music theory, with Iannis Xenakis, and during a performance project met John Cage. Bernard formed MergélèpeGuorismogue and joined Atelier de musique expérimentale (AME), an organization created by Raymond Gervais, Michel Di Torre, Yves Bouliane, and Robert M. Lepage to promote improvised music in the 1970s in Montreal.

Gagnon began experimenting with electronic sounds as a member of Kevin Austin's MetaMusic and in the 1980s studied under Alcides Lanza, Mariano Etkin, and Paul Pedersen at McGill University, composing and recording his first electroacoustic pieces at the university's Electronic Music Studio (EMS). In 1981, Gagnon was awarded both the CAPAC Hugh Le Caine Award and Radio-Canada's Prix national de composition électroacoustique for works composed at McGill University. The compositions he recorded at EMS were released by Tenzier in 2012 on vinyl entitled: *Bernard Gagnon: Musique Électronique (1975-1983)*.

Gagnon's composition "Gwendoline descendue!" was recently featured on the compilation album "Dream Into Dream" by Japan's DJ Nobu and "GololoMashta" served as the soundtrack for a dance performance by Canadian choreographer Dana Gingras in 2013.

Bernard Gagnon currently (2016) resides in Montreal.

For more information:

<http://tenzier.org/en/tnzr052-bernard-gagnon>

Tellier Craig, Roger. "Early Electronic Music in Québec: A Brief History". *Red Bull Music Daily Academy*. 4 October 2016.

<http://daily.redbullmusicacademy.com/2016/10/early-electronic-music-in-quebec>

<https://www.facebook.com/Bernard-Gagnon-compositeur-184249691681926/>

---

## Arrangement

The *Bernard Gagnon Fonds* is organized into 5 series.

1. Audio recordings
    - i. Reel-to-reel tapes
    - ii. Cassette tapes (includes one VHS tape)
    - iii. CD-Rs
    - iv. LPs
  2. Manuscripts
  3. Correspondence
  4. Photographs
  5. Event programs & publicity
- 

## Content

### Series 1                      Audio recordings

This series consists of unreleased and released audio recordings of Bernard Gagnon music and several interviews. There are four subseries.

- i. Reel-to-reel tapes
- ii. Cassette tapes (includes one VHS tape)
- iii. CD-Rs
- iv. LPs

Series 1			
Subseries i: Reel-to-reel tapes			
Box No.	Tape No.	Item Count	Description
1	BG 1	1	“Gwendolyne descendue!”. Recorded at the McGill Electronic Music Studio for Professor Alcides Lanza. Master tape. 14 May 1986. Reel-to-reel ¼ inch tape. Recorded at 7.5 ips. Dolby. Tail-out. Scotch brand.
1	BG 2	1	“Dictée”. Recorded at the McGill Electronic Music Studio for Professor Mariano Etkin. Master tape. Reel-to-reel tape. Recorded at 7.5 ips. Head-out. Scotch brand.
1	BG 3	1	“Atlanta”. 1 <sup>st</sup> copy. Reel-to-reel ¼ inch tape. Scotch brand.
1	BG 4	1	Unnamed. Reel-to-reel ¼ inch tape. Scotch brand.
1	BG 5	1	“BCN et LCP”. Reel-to-reel ¼ inch tape. Scotch brand.
1	BG 6	1	Unnamed. Reel-to-reel ¼ inch tape. Scotch brand.

1	BG 7	1	Maqie Menceal. Entrevue cirque de solaise (?) Denis Lacombe. Reel-to-reel ¼ inch tape. Scotch brand.
1	BG 8	1	“GoLoLo”. Reel-to-reel tape. Recorded at 3.75 ips. Head-out. BASF brand. Insert: Notes, 3-pages.

<b>Series 1</b>			
<b>Subseries ii: Cassette tapes</b>			
<b>Box No.</b>	<b>Tape No.</b>	<b>Item Count</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	BG 9	1	“Pour Mike et Dom”. Undated. Side A: “Totem Ben UR”, “Valse”, “I like you I”, “I like you II”, “Oriental intrigue”. Side B: “Bella V”, “Tant pis pour les heures de sommeil”, Chew Chew Bazooka”, “Eyes of the subway”, “Lou Salome”. Cassette tape. Sony brand. HFX 60.
1	BG 10	1	“La Flore Laurentienne”. Gagnon, Lepage, Lepine, St. Jak. Undated. Cassette tape. TDK brand.
1	BG 11	1	“La Flore Laurentienne”. Side A: “You drop a Greek”, “Musica”, “Traversee”. Side B: “Predateur”, “Permanence”. Undated. Cassette tape. TDK brand.
1	BG 12	1	Gagnon, Lepage. Undated. Cassette tape. TDK brand.
1	BG 13	1	Improvisations. Gagnon, Lepage. Undated. Cassette tape. TDK brand.
1	BG 14	1	Gagnon, Lepage. Studio. “Babel Baby”, “Lègs du labour”, “Permanence de notre clan”. Undated. Cassette tape. TDK brand.
1	BG 15	1	Gagnon, Lepage. Studio. Side A: “La quiete Laurentienne”, “Epilogue”, “Granite Love Slope”, “Double L”, “Pleasure Burden”. Side B: “House of Shame”, “Lee (Chaloupe)”. Undated. Cassette tape. TDK brand.
1	BG 16	1	“Champang résidu”, “Exit: La ville (pour Cham Pang: 1981), “I like you” (1982), “Cosima” (1981) (Richard & James), “GololoMashta” (1975). Cassette tape. TDK brand.
1	BG 17	1	“Tabula rasa”, “Stylo”. 12 August 1983. Cassette tape. Realistic brand.
1	BG 18	1	Gagnon, Lepage, Dostaler. Side A: “Triple (incomplete)”, “Interlude A”, “Quête Laurentienne”, “Babel Baby”, “Interlude Roger”, “Fardeau du

<b>Series 1</b>			
<b>Subseries ii: Cassette tapes</b>			
			Plaisir”, “Interlude nature”, “Pieges de la flore Laurentienne”, “Interlude nature”. Side B: “Interlude nature”, “Lègs du labour”, “Interlude martial”, “Permanence de notre clan”, “Interlude A”, “Épilogue”. Cassette tape. Maxwell brand.
1	BG 19	1	Musique électronique. TNZR.org. Cassette tape.
1	BG 20	1	“Limbes” (1981), “Sea lunch” (extrait 1980-81), “Gwendolyn descendue” (extrait 1980-81), “Pauvre fou” (extrait 1977). TNZR052. Cassette tape. Scotch brand.
	BG 21	1	“Un cycle Laurentienne”. Live performance, featuring Bernard Gagnon’s group and improvised projections by Pierre Hébert. Les Foufounes Électriques. Montreal. 18 November 1986. VHS tape.

<b>Series 1</b>			
<b>Subseries iii: CD-Rs</b>			
<b>Box No.</b>	<b>Tape No.</b>	<b>Item Count</b>	<b>Description</b>
2	BG 22	1	Interview with Bernard Gagnon by Félix Desfossés (Radio-Canada, Bande à part). 26 October 2012. CD-R.
2	BG 23	1	Interview with Bernard Gagnon by Roger Tellier Craig. Part 1 of 2. 12 December 2012. CD-R.
2	BG 24	1	Interview with Bernard Gagnon by Roger Tellier Craig. Part 2 of 2. 12 December 2012. CD-R.
2	BG 25	1	<i>Bernard Gagnon: Musique Électronique (1975-1983)</i> . Tenzier, Catalogue no. TNZR052. 2012. Vinyl premaster. CD-R.
2	BG 26	1	<i>Dream into Dream</i> . DJ Nobu. Crustal Movement Volume 1. Avex Entertainment, Japan. NFCD-27349. 2013. CD-R.

<b>Series 1</b>			
<b>Subseries iv: LPs</b>			
<b>Box No.</b>	<b>Tape No.</b>	<b>Item Count</b>	<b>Description</b>
2	BG 27	1	<i>Bernard Gagnon: Musique Électronique (1975-1983)</i> . Tenzier, Catalogue no. TNZR052. 2012. LP.
2	BG 28	2	<i>Echoes from our Past</i> . Anna Logue Records, ANNA 009.2007 and ANNA 009-7.2007. LP. 2 vinyl disks. Liner notes. [Compilation album featuring a track from Vex, a band Bernard Gagnon formed in 1979 while studying at McGill University].

**Series 2****Manuscripts**

This series consists of texts written by Bernard Gagnon and an undated, un-authored biographical essay.

<b>Series 2</b>			
<b>Box No.</b>	<b>Folder No.</b>	<b>Item Count</b>	<b>Description</b>
3	1	1	Written report submitted by Bernard Gagnon to Alcides Lanza for Electronic Music course #213-341A. 15-page typewritten document contains composition details for "Gwendolyn descendue!" and comments by instructor.
3	2	1	140-page handwritten notebook used while working at McGill University's Electronic Music Studio. 3 February 1981.
3	3	7	- "De Bach à Gentle Giant : témoignage d'un jeune musicien sur les rapports entre musique classique, moderne, contemporaine et rock.", <i>Mainmise</i> 45, (1974): 26-27. - "Gwendolyne descendue". 1981. Two descriptions. - "Dicteé". 1981. Two descriptions. - "La quête Laurentienne." Text, undated.
3	4	1	Biographical essay about Bernard Gagnon. Typewritten 6-pages. Undated. No author. [written by a close friend].

**Series 3****Correspondence**

This series consists of correspondence concerning Bernard Gagnon and his works.

<b>Series 3</b>			
<b>Box No.</b>	<b>Folder No.</b>	<b>Item Count</b>	<b>Description</b>
3	5	2	- Letter from the Ministre des Affaires culturelles congratulating Bernard Gagnon for his Radio-Canada prize. 25 March 1982. - Letter of appraisal submitted by Mireille Gagné (Directrise régionale, Centre de musique canadienne à Montréal) to the Canada Council on behalf of Bernard Gagnon, in support of an arts grant. 10 May 1982.
3	6	7	- <i>Bernard Gagnon: Musique Électronique (1975-1983)</i> . Tenzier (catalogue no. TNZR052), copies of art work, texts and legal deposit forms. 2012.

#### Series 4                      Photographs

This series consists of photographs taken of Bernard Gagnon.

Series 4			
Box No.	Folder No.	Item Count	Description
3	7	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Three photographs of live performances.</li><li>- One portrait.</li><li>- Contact sheet (series of portraits).</li><li>- Four photographs taken during the Radio-Canada award ceremony for the Compétition nationale de composition électroacoustique. [1982].</li></ul>

#### Series 5                      Event programs & publicity

This series consists of event programs, posters and articles published in the media and in journals about Bernard Gagnon performances.

Series 5			
Box No.	Folder No.	Item Count	Description
3	8	15	Letter size posters for Montreal events. Promotional documents and concert posters for Vex, Cham Pang and other Bernard Gagnon projects. 1980s-2015.
3	9	11	<p>Programs for Montreal events. 1982-2013.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- “Musique excentrique” program published by the Association pour la création et la recherche électroacoustiques du Québec (ACREQ).</li><li>- Festival international des musiques expérimentales de Bourges program. 13 June 1981.</li><li>- CBC National Radio Competition for Young Composers. 21 March 1982.</li><li>- McGill University Contemporary Music Festival flyer and program. 16-19 March 1982.</li><li>- ICI Radio FM. 28 December 1981, 12 April 1982, 11 June 1983.</li><li>- <i>Montréal Musiques Actuelles/New Music America 1990</i>. Montréal Musiques Actuelles. 1990.</li><li>- <i>Cru d'automne</i>. École de danse Contemporaine de Montréal. 18-21 December 2013.</li></ul>



3	10	19	<p>Press. Various newspaper clippings, articles and copies of text from web sites. 1982-2013. Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>The Canadian Composer</i>, no. 168, (1982): 32, featuring a profile of (and interview with) Bernard Gagnon.</li> <li>- Françoise Barrière, “De Bourges : un paysage complexe et nuancé”. <i>Circuit : musiques contemporaines</i> 4, no.1-2, (1993): 37-46.</li> </ul>
Sonde 14 (oversize flat storage)	11	1	<p>Poster. <i>Bernard Gagnon: Musique Électronique (1975-1983)</i>. Tenzier (catalogue no. TNZR052), 2012.</p>