

HAZEL SAUNDERS COLLECTION
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UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

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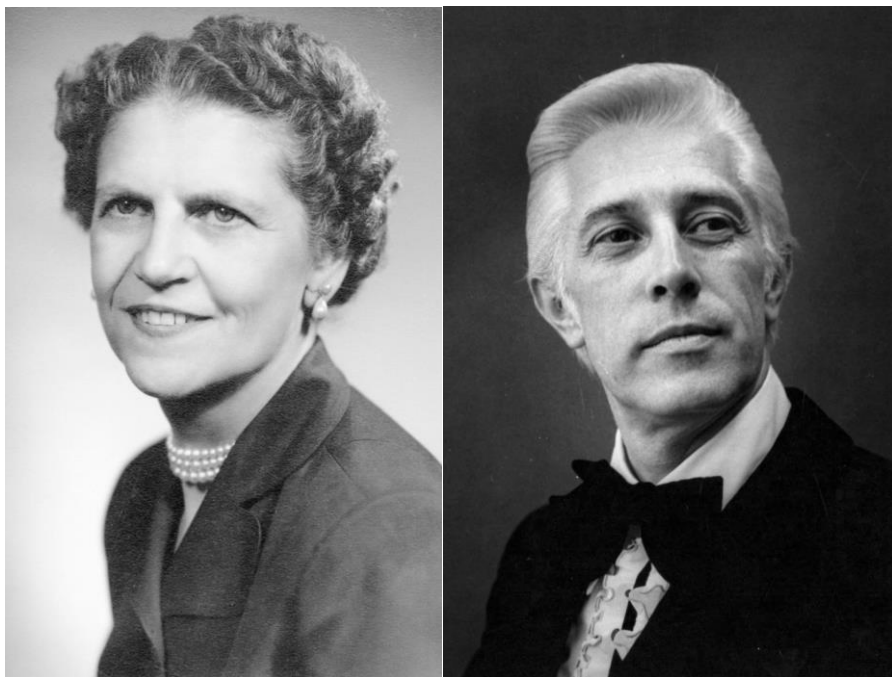
DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Accession no. 997.8

Shelf location: M2B 7,6

Physical extent: 2.25 linear feet

Biographical Sketch



(Left) Hazel Saunders. Photograph from Russell Saunders Collection, Box 16, Sleeve 10.

(Right) Russell P. Saunders. Photograph from ESPA 6-39 (5x7).

Mrs. Hazel Miller Saunders was the mother of organist, pedagogue, and scholar Russell Paul Saunders (1921–1992), whose life and service are commemorated in the content of the given collection. She survived her son.

Russell P. Saunders was born on September 24, 1921, in Montezuma, Iowa, the only child of Hazel and Melvin Saunders. He earned his baccalaureate and master's degrees at Drake University (Des Moines, Iowa), where he studied under Frank Jordan; he later continued his organ studies under Arthur Poister at Syracuse University. He also studied with Helmut Walcha of the Hochschule für Musik (Frankfurt, Germany) while on a Fulbright Fellowship, and with Marie-Claire Alain, Anton Heiller, Luigi Tagliavini, and Harald Vogel. After serving in the Armed Forces during World War II, Mr. Saunders joined the faculty of Drake University in 1949; he served there until 1967, when he was appointed to the faculty of the Eastman School of Music.

Professor Saunders was appropriately recognized for his outstanding academic service. His alma mater, Drake University, conferred an honorary doctorate on him. In 1986, he received the Eastman School's Eisenhart Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the following year he was awarded the University of Rochester's University Mentor Award for 1986–87. Moreover, in the quarter-century (1967–92) that he and David Craighead served alongside one another at the Eastman School of Music, the two men were acknowledged as having set the standard for collegiate organ teaching in the United States. Their graduates and students regularly dominated the biennial national competitions of the American Guild of Organists and went on to assume leading positions as recitalists, college and university organists, and church musicians across the nation.

Alongside his academic service, Dr. Saunders was a recitalist and clinician for numerous colleges, churches, and American Guild of Organists chapters and conventions throughout the United States. In addition, he frequently served as adjudicator for major international competitions. In a sign of the high esteem in which his colleagues held him, AGO then-President James Moeser went on record describing Russell Saunders as “the world's single most important secondary source of scholarly material on any subject related to organ performance” (in *The American Organist*, October 1991).

Dr. Saunders died of a heart attack on December 6, 1992, while attending the debut concert of the Rochester Freedom Singers at the First Universalist Church in downtown Rochester; he was 71 years of age. He was recognized posthumously in two publications: *The Organist as Scholar: Essays in Memory of Russell Saunders*, edited by Kerala J. Snyder (Pendragon Press, 1994); and *Russell Saunders Still Teaches: A Booklet of Reminiscences*, compiled by Mary Ann Lackovich (Eastman School of Music, 1995).

Provenance

The collection was the gift of Mrs. Hazel Saunders, mother of the late Professor Russell Saunders, and was received by the Sibley Music Library in April 1994.

Scope and Content

The collection constitutes a memorial to the late Russell Saunders and is comprised of material collected by Hazel Saunders both before and after Dr. Saunders' death. The collection includes printed programs, press clippings and other articles about Dr. Saunders, personal mementos, correspondence, photographs, and video and audio recordings. Altogether, the documents represent many official and personal remembrances of the late Dr. Saunders and attest to the lasting impact he had on his students and colleagues, the Eastman School, and the organ community at large.

Restrictions

No restrictions have been placed on access to this collection. RTWSC adheres to the provisions of the U. S. Copyright Law and its revisions where reproductions are concerned.

Associations

Within RTWSC, a companion collection to this one is the Russell Saunders Collection, representing the papers and other effects of the late Dr. Saunders. Other organists whose papers and/or libraries are archived at RTWSC are Michael D. Farris, Harold Gleason, Mario Salvador, and Rolande Falcinelli.

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

The collection has been arranged into series and sub-series according to material type as described below.

Series 1: Printed matter

Sub-series A: Russell Saunders in memoriam

This sub-series is comprised of concert programs, obituaries and in memoriam articles, and related materials. These items document many of the tributes and remembrances issued following Dr. Saunders's death.

Sub-series B: Ephemera

This sub-series contains various printed material, namely articles, including one article written by Dr. Saunders for *The American Organist*; concert programs from recitals by students of Saunders and from performances at the House of Hope Organ Institute; documents from Dr. Saunders's career (e.g., certificates, letter of appointment); and a copy of Dr. Saunders's will.

Sub-series C: Correspondence

Most of the correspondence in this sub-series relates to Dr. Saunders's estate, including gifts from Hazel Saunders to ESM in memory of her late son.

Series 2: Photographs

This sequence of photographs dates from the late 1960s through 1994. Many of the photographs are candid snapshots from Dr. Saunders's professional activities; also included are several photographs from the unveiling of Russell Saunders's portrait in the Cominsky Promenade on April 28, 1994.

Series 3: Audio recordings

This series contains thirteen audiocassette tapes. Four of the tapes are recordings of memorial services or concerts for Dr. Saunders. The series also contains three tapes from former Saunders student Patricia Sue Fitzsimmons (DMA 1978), which she presented to Hazel Saunders following Dr. Saunders's death.

Series 4: Video recordings

This series is comprised of six VHS tapes, all of which appear to contain recordings of memorial services or concerts for Dr. Saunders.

INVENTORY

Series 1: Printed matter

Sub-series A: Russell Saunders in memoriam

Box 1

- folder 1 12/11/92. Russell Saunders memorial service program (Christ Church, Rochester). Three copies.
- folder 2 02/23/93. Russell Saunders memorial service program (Church of the Heavenly Rest, New York, NY).
- folder 3 03/23/93. "A Celebration of the Life of Russell Saunders" program (Eastman School of Music). Two copies.
- folder 4 07/03/93. Russell Paul Saunders memorial service program (First Christian Church, Des Moines, Iowa).
- folder 5 03/23/93. Program for recital by David Higgs in memory of Russell Saunders (Downtown United Presbyterian Church, Rochester, N.Y).
- folder 6 06/13/93. Program for performance of the Maurice Duruflé *Requiem* in memory of Russell Saunders at The House of Hope Organ Institute.
- folder 7 12/24/92. Program for Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship (Central Presbyterian Church, Des Moines, Iowa.) Flowers in memory of Russell Saunders.
- folder 8 03/21/93. Program for J. S. Bach Birthday Recital (St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Roseville, Minnesota). Some works dedicated in memory of Russell Saunders.
- folder 9 04/22/93. Program for organ recital of the South Mississippi Chapter of the American Guild of Organists given in memory of Russell Saunders by his students. Accompanied by a memo to David Higgs from Paul D. Anderson.
- folder 10 07/12/93. Eulogy by Nancy Cooper, a former Saunders pupil, delivered at the Northwest AGO Regional Convention. 2 pp. Accompanied by a letter from Cooper to Hazel Saunders.
- folder 11 02/23/93. Russell Saunders memorial concert program (Church of the Heavenly Rest, New York, N.Y.) Accompanied by correspondence between Mollie Nichols, Robert Freeman, and Hazel Saunders.

- folder 12 06/93. Tributes to Russell Saunders published in *The American Organist*, June 1993, pp. 55–57. Two photocopies.
- folder 13 02/93. “A tribute to Russell Saunders” by Karen McFarlane. 2 versions: 4 pp., 2 pp. Accompanied by a letter to McFarlane from D. Dyson Gay.
- folder 14 01/93. Two speeches by David Craighead about Russell Saunders (“Saunders Celebration, Fri. P.M. Introduction”; “The Influence of Russell Saunders at the Eastman School of Music”). 1 p., 7 pp. Accompanied by a letter from Craighead to Hazel Saunders.
- folder 15 03/93. Article “In memoriam Russell Saunders” published in *Diapason*, March 1993. Three copies.
- folder 16 12/93. Copies of two articles designated for inclusion in Saunders memorial book: David Craighead, “Russell Saunders, Master Teacher: A Biographical Sketch”; John A. Ferguson “The Pedagogy of Russell Saunders.” 9 pp., 5 pp. Accompanied by a letter from Kerala Snyder to Hazel Saunders.
- folder 17 01/93. Memorandum from Dr. Robert Freeman to ESM organ students and alumni regarding Saunders’ death. Accompanied by letter from Dr. Freeman to Dyson Gay.
- folder 18 07/31/96. Letter from D. Dyson Gay to Robert Freeman that accompanied memorabilia of Russell and Hazel Saunders.
- folder 19 08/01/96. Two memoranda from Robert Freeman to Ted Honea regarding the disposition of the given Saunders collection.
- folder 20 05/94. Letter from Robert Freeman to Hazel Saunders sent with photographs of the Russell Saunders portrait unveiling taken by Louis Ouzer. Accompanied by a card to Mrs. Saunders from those in attendance.
- folder 21 12/08/92. Russell Saunders’ death notice published in the *Rochester Times-Union*, Rochester, N.Y.
- folder 22 12/10/92. Article about Russell Saunders published in the *Rochester Times-Union*, Rochester, N.Y.
- folder 23 12/14/92. Article about Russell Saunders published in *Currents*, University of Rochester.
- folder 24 06/93. Tributes to Russell Saunders published in the *American Guild of Organists*. Accompanied by a cover note from D. Dyson Gay to Hazel Saunders.

folder 25 10/90. Photocopy of “An Interview with Russell Saunders” published in *The American Organist*, October 1990.

folder 26 12/92; 07/93. Notices from newsletter “On Campus” from Drake University.

folder 27 Various newspaper clippings in memory of Russell Saunders.

Box 3

item 1 12/11/92. Memorial book signed by those in attendance at the memorial service at Christ Church, Rochester, N.Y.

item 2 12/11/92. Memorial book signed by those in attendance at the funeral at Jackson Township Cemetery, Montezuma, Iowa.

Sub-series B: Ephemera

Box 1 [cont.]

folder 28 1994. Russell Saunders, “Performance Practice and Music Making.” Published in *The American Organist*, September, 1994. Accompanied by a letter from Dr. Larry Smith (Indiana University).

folder 29 1986. Photocopy of the citation in testimony of the Eisenhart Award in recognition of distinguished teaching to Russell Saunders, May 11, 1986. Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester.

folder 30 10/91. Photocopy of “From the President” column by James C. Moeser published in *The American Organist*, October 1991.

folder 31 01/93. Clipping from *The American Organist* (January 1993) featuring items on Marian and David Craighead, and on David Craighead and Russell Saunders. Accompanied in print by photographs.

folder 32 Programs of recitals by Saunders pupils Robert M. Speed, Elizabeth Melcher, and Dianne M. Maynard.

folder 33 Programs from the House of Hope Organ Institute.

folder 34 One leaf extracted from a printed calendar book (July, 1952) with a photograph of Frank Jordan (Drake University) on its verso bearing the caption “Organ Lesson”.

Box 2

- folder 1 Materials associated with Saunders pupil Mary Ann Lackovich. Accompanied by a description of the arrangements recorded on the tape *Mary, Our Hope*, written by Ms. Lackovich. (A cassette tape of *Mary, Our Hope* is on file in box 6.)
- folder 2 05/26/67. Letter of Dr. Saunders' appointment as Professor of Organ, signed by W. Allen Wallis, President of the University, University of Rochester.
- folder 3 10/93. Certificate and letter to Hazel Saunders from Dennis O'Brien, President of the University of Rochester, in gratitude for her contribution to the Russell Saunders Scholarship Fund.
- folder 4 Will of Russell P. Saunders, executed by Harter, Secrest & Emery (Rochester, N.Y.).

Box 3 [cont.]

- item 3 Storybook from Russell Saunders' childhood: *Little Folks Mother Goose Rhymes*. New York: Platt & Munk Co., c1922. Accompanied by a legacy note from Hazel Saunders.
- item 4 Storybook from Russell Saunders' childhood: *My Book of Bedtime Stories: Children's Bedtime Stories in Three Parts*. Racine, Wis.: Whitman Publishing Co., c1917, 1916. Accompanied by a legacy note from Hazel Saunders.

Sub-series C: Correspondence

Box 2

- folder 5 09/93–11/93. Correspondence regarding Hazel Saunders' gifts to ESM. 5 letters.
- folder 6 1990–93. Correspondence between Russell Saunders and Robert Freeman regarding the 5-year plan for the organ department. 3 documents.
RESTRICTED
- folder 7 1993–94. Hazel Saunders-Robert Freeman correspondence. 14 letters.
- folder 8 Letters of condolence to Hazel Saunders. 8 letters.
- folder 9 Other correspondence. Contents are:

Patricia Fitzsimmons to Hazel Saunders (undated and incomplete), providing background and program details for the three audio-cassettes filed in box 6, items 1-3;

D. Dyson Gay to Mr. Peter Dubois (undated), acknowledging the latter's note of September 21, 1993, concerning Dr. Saunders' piano;
 Alice and George Damp to Dr. Robert Freeman (May 24, 1993), acknowledging the latter's support of Mary Ann Lackovich's project to collect students' memories of Dr. Saunders; and accompanying a contribution to the Russell Saunders Scholarship Fund;
 Robert Freeman to Alice and George Damp (June 8, 1993), acknowledging their contribution to the scholarship fund;
 Mary Ellen Hindson to Hazel Saunders (December 27, 1993), accompanying a check from Academic Information Service, Inc.;

Robert B. Goergen, Chairman of the Board, University of Rochester to U of R alumni, parents and friends (November 24, 1993), announcing the appointment of Thomas H. Jackson as President of the University

- folder 10 1993–94. Correspondence from attorneys of Russell Saunders' estate. 28 letters.
- folder 11 1993. Correspondence from D. Dyson Gay regarding Russell Saunders' estate. 3 letters.

Series 2: Photographs

Box 1 [cont.]

- folder 35 Contact sheets containing negatives of photographs taken by Louis Ouzer at the Russell Saunders portrait unveiling on April 28th, 1994, at the Eastman School of Music. 2 B/W contact sheets, containing 18 + 23 images, 8" x 10".

Box 4

- folder 1 12/69. Marian and David Craighead at Godding reception. 1 color Polaroid photograph, 3.5" x 4.25".
- folder 2 Undated. Organ console with pipes: unidentified instrument. 1 color photograph, 3.5" x 5".
- folder 3 1969. Bob Fulton: apparently at Godding reception. 1 color Polaroid photograph, 3.5" x 4.25".
- folder 4 12/69. Godding reception. Helen Tuntland, Ron Vermillion. 1 color Polaroid photograph, 3.5" x 4.25".
- folder 5 01/71. Russell Saunders and Arthur Poister. 1 color Polaroid photograph, 3.5" x 4.25".

- folder 6 3/13/76. Seven B&W snapshots dated 3/13/76. ESM faculty members Russell Saunders, David Craighead, Jürgen Thym are variously present, together with students. All taken at the console in the organ recital hall at ESM. 7 B/W photographs, 3.5" x 4.5".
- folder 7 1969. Bill Neilson, Alice Damp, Marilyn Flenk, JoDean Blaine, Cornelia Foster. 1 color Polaroid photograph, 3.5" x 4.25".
- folder 8 Undated. Three color snapshots taken at the same event. Russell Saunders and Kerala Snyder are in one. 3 color photographs, 3.5" x 5".
- folder 9 Undated. Two color snapshots. Russell Saunders in both; joined by an unidentified woman in one. 2 color photographs, 3.5" x 5".
- folder 10 11/79. Two color snapshots, taken at what apparently was a social event. 2 color photographs, 3.5" x 4.5".
- folder 11 Undated. Three color snapshots; in each, an unidentified speaker at microphone. 3 color photographs, 3.5" x 5".
- folder 12 Undated. One color snapshot; two men at the console; neither they nor the venue are identified. 1 color photograph, 3.5" x 3.5".
- folder 13 Undated. Two color snapshots of a cat sitting on a kitchen stool, being offered a banana peel. 2 color photographs, 3.5" x 5".
- folder 14 Undated. Russell Saunders with an unidentified man (likely student) at the console of the organ recital hall, Eastman School of Music. 1 color photograph, 3.5" x 5".
- folder 15 Undated. Russell Saunders with an unidentified woman (likely student) at the console of the organ recital hall, Eastman School of Music. 1 color photograph, 3.5" x 5".
- folder 16 Undated. Group photograph taken in the corridor outside the organ recital hall, Eastman School of Music. The group includes ESM faculty members Russell Saunders, David Craighead, and Emily Vander Pool. 1 color photograph, 3.5" x 5".
- folder 17 1988. Group photograph taken during the [American Guild of Organists' Pedagogy Conference], Houston, Texas. Russell Saunders at far right. 1 color photograph, 3.5" x 5".
- folder 18 Undated. Group photograph of three organists, including David Higgs, and Charles Rus. 1 color photograph, 3.5" x 5".

- folder 19 Undated. Three color snapshots of unidentified organists in jovial moods. The settings and the photo formats suggest taken on different dates. 3 color photographs, 3.5" x 5".
- folder 20 01/85. A sequence of five color snapshots; Russell Saunders in all of them. 5 color photographs, 3.5" x 5".
- folder 21 4/28/94. Nine B&W photos from the Russell Saunders portrait unveiling at ESM. Captions provided by Robert Freeman. Photos by Louis Ouzer. 9 B/W photographs, 5" x 7".
- folder 22 4/28/94. Two color photos from the Russell Saunders portrait unveiling at ESM. Captions provided in an unknown hand. In both are Michael Farris, David Higgs, Robert Freeman, and David and Marian Craighead. 2 color photographs, 4" x 6".
- folder 23 4/28/94. Four color photos from the Russell Saunders portrait unveiling at ESM. Captions provided in an unknown hand. In one, Louis Ouzer and Robert Freeman pose by the portrait. 4 color photographs, 4" x 6".
- folder 24 4/28/94. Two color photos from the Russell Saunders portrait unveiling at ESM. Captions provided in an unknown hand. 2 color photographs, 4" x 6".
- folder 25 4/28/94. One color photo from the Russell Saunders portrait unveiling at ESM. Robert Freeman and Louis Ouzer at center; David and Marian Craighead at left. Caption provided in an unknown hand. 1 color photograph, 4" x 6".
- folder 26 4/28/94. Two color photos of students and others at the portrait unveiling at ESM. Captions provided in an unknown hand. 2 color photographs, 4" x 6".
- folder 27 01/93. Thirteen color photos from a reception; captions provided on nine of them. 13 color photographs, 4" x 6".
- folder 28 10/05/85. Color photo with two individuals; they and the venue are unidentified. 1 color photograph, 4" x 6".
- folder 29 01/88. Three color photos; Russell Saunders appears in two. 3 color photographs, 4" x 6".
- folder 30 Undated. Color photo taken in Montezuma, Iowa; unidentified group of senior citizens; Russell Saunders standing at far left. 1 color photograph, 5" x 7".
- folder 31 07/04/93. Group photo at Drake University memorial for Russell Saunders. Caption on reverse. 1 color photograph, 5" x 7".
- folder 32 Undated. B&W photo of John Bodinger, clad in a liturgical vestment, at the console in a church. 1 B/W photograph, 5" x 5.75".

Series 3: Audio recordings

Box 5

item 1

Presentation tape to Hazel Saunders from former Saunders student Patricia Sue Fitzsimmons, DMA '78 of her in-studio sessions with Dr. Saunders. 1 audio cassette tape.

N.B. Cover letter from Dr. Fitzsimmons to Mrs. Saunders has been separated to box 2/8.

Side A: My heart is filled with gladness / Brahms — Variations on a theme of Clément Jannequin / Jehan Alain — Prelude and Fugue on the name of Alain / Duruflé — Prelude and Fugue in G minor / Vincent Lubeck — O world, I now must leave thee / Brahms — A lovely rose is blooming / Brahms.

Side B: My Jesus I'll not leave / Brahms — O world, I now must leave thee / Brahms — A lovely rose is blooming / Brahms — Toccata in E major / J. S. Bach — Concerto in d minor, movements I and II / Bach-Vivaldi.

item 2

Presentation tape to Hazel Saunders from former Saunders student Patricia Sue Fitzsimmons, DMA '78 of her in-studio sessions with Dr. Saunders. 1 audio cassette tape.

N.B. Cover letter from Dr. Fitzsimmons to Mrs. Saunders has been separated to box 2/8.

Side A: Concerto in d minor, movements III and IV / Bach-Vivaldi — Vom Himmel Hoch / J. S. Bach — Rondo, K. 616 / Mozart — unspecified work(s) / Frescobaldi.

Side B: Prière / Franck.

item 3

Presentation tape to Hazel Saunders from former Saunders student Patricia Sue Fitzsimmons, DMA '78. Recital tape from the University of Montevallo, 1980. 1 audio cassette tape.

N.B. Cover letter from Dr. Fitzsimmons to Mrs. Saunders has been separated to box 2/8. Not indicated in the letter as to where the break between Sides A and B of tape 3 occurs.

Side A: Kyrie / J. S. Bach — Christ our Lord to Jordan Came / J. S. Bach — Fantasie and Fugue in g minor / J. S. Bach — Fantasie in f minor, K. 595 / Mozart — Andante sostenuto from the Symphonie

Gothique / Widor — Suite in three movements / Alain — Two
Fugues on B-A-C-H / Schumann.

Side B:

- item 4 A Celebration of the Life of Russell Saunders. ESM. 03/23/93. 1 audio cassette tape.
- item 5 Kilbourn Concert Series: David Higgs, organ. In memory of Russell Saunders. 03/23/93. Downtown United Presbyterian Church, Rochester, N.Y. 1 audio cassette tape.
N.B. Printed program on file in box 1/3.
- item 6 Russell Saunders Memorial Service. 12/11/92. Christ Church. 1 audio cassette tape.
N.B. Printed order of service on file in box 1/1.
- item 7 Sounds of Eastman: A Musical Sampler from the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music. [Contains selections from various large and chamber ensembles at Eastman.] 1 audio cassette tape.
N.B. Program selections indicated on case liner.
- item 8 In Memoriam: Russell Saunders. 02/23/93. Church of the Heavenly Rest. 1 audio cassette tape.
N.B. Program selections indicated on case liner; in addition, printed program on file in box 1/2.
- item 9 Inaugural Recital: David Higgs premieres the C. B. Fisk Organ, Meyerson Symphony Center, Dallas. Program selections indicated on case liner. 1 audio cassette tape.
- item 10 Central Presbyterian Church Celebrates Robert M. Speed and the re-dedication of the Aeolian-Skinner Organ. 10/10/93. 1 audio cassette tape.
N.B. Program selections indicated on case liner.
- item 11 *Mary, Our Hope*. 1987. The pipe organ, bells, and chimes of the Church of St. James the Apostle (Kenosha, WI). Mary Ann Lackovich, organist and arranger; George Lubinski, recording engineer. 1 audio cassette tape.
N.B. The work's foundational text is printed on case liner; in addition, the arranger's background description of the work is on file in box 2/1.
- item 12 Mary Ann Lackovich, organ. 9/24/89. No accompanying information. 1 audio cassette tape.
- item 13 Content unidentified. 1 audio cassette tape.

Series 4: Video recordings

Box 6

- item 1 Russell Saunders. VHS cassette.
Bears a post-it note reading "Dordt College. To Mrs. Saunders".
- item 2 Russell Saunders at Dordt College, February, 1992. VHS cassette.
N.B. ? Printed program on file in Russell Saunders Collection, box 2/24 ?
- item 3 In Memoriam Russell Paul Saunders. VHS cassette. (No further accompanying information.)
- item 4 In Memoriam Russell Paul Saunders. VHS cassette. (No further accompanying information.)
- item 5 03/23/93. A Celebration of the Life of Russell Saunders, Kilbourn Hall, ESM. VHS cassette.
- item 6 03/23/93. David Higgs, organ, at Downtown United Presbyterian Church, Rochester, N.Y. VHS cassette.