

---

## **Finding Aid for the Donald O'Connor orchestration arrangements collection 2007.010.r**

Finding aid prepared by Norm Lee



Frank Mt. Pleasant Library of Special Collections and Archives, Leatherby Libraries

Chapman University

One University Drive

Orange, CA, 92866

(714) 532 - 7711

rboyd@chapman.edu

02/23/2015

---

**Title:** Donald O'Connor orchestration arrangements collection

**Identifier/Call Number:** 2007.010.r

**Contributing Institution:** Frank Mt. Pleasant Library of Special Collections and Archives, Leatherby Libraries

**Language of Material:** English

**Storage Unit:** 1-32

**Physical Description:** 16.5 Linear feet(32 boxes)

**Date (bulk):** Bulk, 1952-1960

**Date (inclusive):** 1925-2003

**Abstract:** A collection of musical arrangements owned and used by entertainer Donald O'Connor for the production of television shows including "The Donald O'Connor Show" (two separate variety and concert shows of the same name that ran in both the 1950s and 1960s) and "The Bell Telephone Hour." Of particular note are the scores for "Make 'Em Laugh," "Singin' In The Rain," and "Moses" from O'Connor's film "Singin' in the Rain," and scores from the variety show "The Julie Andrews Hour."

**Location note:** Leatherby Libraries

**Scope and Contents note**

32 boxes of musical arrangements including song arrangements, miscellaneous popular songbooks and sheet music, 2 plaques, 2 photos of Donald O'Connor and an index of arrangements.

**Arrangement note**

This collection is arranged alphabetically by song title.

**Conditions Governing Access note**

This collection is open for research.

**Conditions Governing Use note**

There are no restrictions on the use of this material except where previously copyrighted material is concerned. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain all permissions.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Loan from Ms. Alicia Van Der Veer (daughter of Donald O'Connor).

**Preferred Citation note**

[identify item], Donald O'Connor Orchestration Arrangements collection (2007.010.r), Frank Mt. Pleasant Library of Special Collections and Archives, Chapman University, CA.

**Biographical/Historical note**

Donald O'Connor (28 August 1925 – 27 September 2003)

Born in Chicago to vaudeville performer parents, O'Connor began performing as a child actor in the late 1930s, appearing in films including "Sing You Sinners," "Tom Sawyer," and "Beau Geste." After taking a break from film to perform vaudeville he returned to film, signing with Universal Pictures who produced musicals as a starring vehicle for him throughout the 1940s. He won a Golden Globe for his performance in the 1952 film "Singin' in the Rain."

He hosted several shows from the late 1950s to the 1970s, including NBC's "Colgate Comedy Hour," and two versions of "The Donald O'Connor Show." In his later years he hosted the Academy Awards, and appeared in several films and television shows. Famous for his song and dance skills, during his lifetime he appeared in 15 stage shows, and 59 films.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

O'Connor, Donald , 1925-2003

Van Der Veer, Alicia

Dance in motion pictures, television, etc

Motion pictures.

Musical -- Films

Musicians.

---