

**Maurice Durieux VE2QS \*1907-1976\*** Arranger, conductor, violinist, born Courbevoie, France. Our subject a pupil of Maurice Onderet and Rodolphe Mathieu. Durieux began his career in 1924 on Canadian radio CHYC. He was a soloist and conductor for several CBC radio light music programs and also played in the Howard Fogg and Benny Chaskelson Orchestras.



In 1930 he was a founding member of the Montreal Orchestra. He was second violin in the Durieux String Quartet, which was established by his brother in 1930 and played for two years. Having decided to concentrate on the viola, he studied in the 1940s at the CMM with Louis Bailly and with William Primrose. He conducted the orchestra of the Montreal Press Club and accompanied Muriel Millard in songs she recorded for RCA Victor.

He also directed 1952-55 the concerts for the Montreal Festivals. He was a member of the CBC Serenade for Strings and Little Symphonies; orchestras and played 1952-67 in the MSO. He composed some light music including *Isola d'amore* (Le Passe-Temps Jan 1947)

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Here is the rest of the story; Sometime in the early 50s VE2QS was orchestra conductor, employed by Radio Canada who had emigrated from France. Assisting Durieux in the creation of a pop tempo song "CQ Serenade" was F9KT.

"CQ Serenade was first recorded with French lyrics by Raymond Girerd. "An English version written by VE2QS and by Georges Brewer, then VE2BR, of Montreal. It was later covered by songstress Joyce Hahn. Both versions were available on 45 RPM play records under the rather apropos "QSO" Records label.

Today, those discs are probably true collectors items and all but impossible to find. But don't despair. Thanks to the magic of MP3 audio and the Web, CQ Serenade is still around to hear and enjoy. Surprisingly the quality is good with the three versions, English, French and Instrumental.

Read interesting comments by K8SB on the net concerning his engineering at WKLZ in Kalamazoo and the QSL cards that befuddled the chief engineer that began to be received at the station. Partially scripted Gilles Potvin; Bruce Tennant - W8SU 2007