

# Stratford Symphony Orchestra Canada, eh?

May 14, 2016

## PROGRAM NOTES

**Stratford Festival Fanfare** was composed by Louis Applebaum, the first music director of the Stratford Festival. He wrote *Three Festival Fanfares* for the 1953 opening season of the Festival. “Since we were then in a tent,” he explained, “there was a question as to how best to warn the audience that the performance was about to begin or that the intermission was over. Buzzers and recorded announcements seemed inappropriate. Because a brass group was available, I suggested that a fanfare, played live, could serve that purpose.” (from Composer’s Notes, Northdale Music Press Limited website)

**Anne of Green Gables – The Musical** is based on the novel *Anne of Green Gables*, Lucy Maud Montgomery. The musical was created by Don Harron (book, lyrics), Norman Campbell (music, lyrics), Elaine Campbell (lyrics) and Masvor Moore (lyrics). Its stage premiere was at the Charlottetown Festival in 1965 and it has been running ever since, making it Canada’s longest-running musical.

Berthold Carrière wrote the music for ***As You Like It***, ***Twelfth Night*** and ***Love’s Labour’s Lost*** in the early part of his career at the Stratford Festival. (He was named music director in 1976.) All three productions were directed by Robin Phillips, who worked 11 seasons at the Festival and was artistic director from 1975 to 1980.

Mr. Phillips was known for attracting top talent to the Festival. Mr. Carrière recalls that English actors Maggie Smith and Brian Bedford starred in *As You Like It*. “It was a great production,” he says, “and I was really happy with the outcome.”

The three songs from *Twelfth Night* that will be performed in this concert were all written for distinguished Canadian actor William Hutt. Mr. Carrière remembers that Mr. Hutt “was a bit scared about singing those songs ... so I would write the song and sit him beside me, and [say] “do you want to change anything here, would this be more comfortable for you?”

Mr. Carrière wrote ***The Owl and the Cuckoo***, from *Love’s Labour’s Lost*, for Canadian actor and tenor Gerald Isaac, who played Moth. He composed the music for ***Why hear’st thou music sadly***, a Shakespeare sonnet, for Richard Monette, upon his retirement as Festival artistic director in 2007.

Mr. Carrière will play the keyboard parts with the orchestra for all his compositions.

Canadian composer, arranger and conductor Howard Cable conducted the SSO in October 2013, the opening concert in Season Nine. Mr. Cable, who died earlier this year, was 92 when he conducted that concert, Howard Cable's Big-Band Hits. **The Fanfare, Flourish and Sennet** to be played in this concert is the opening of a longer composition by Mr. Cable, *Stratford Suite for Band*.

The musical ***Evangeline*** was first performed at the Confederation Centre in Charlottetown in 2013. It was created by Canadian Ted Dykstra, who wrote the music and lyrics. Rick Fox, who did the orchestrations, became music director of the Stratford Festival when Mr. Carrière retired in 2007.

Mr. Fox wrote the music and orchestrations for ***Cyrano*** the musical, which featured Brent Carver (Cyrano), Patricia O'Callaghan (Roxanne), David Rogers (Christian), Bruce Dow (Rageuneau) and Michele Fisk (Mother Margaurite). A CD was released in 2003.