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HOWARD LEYTON-BROWN

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Biographical Sketch: Howard Leyton-Brown was born in Melbourne, Australia in 1918. He began violin lessons at the age of seven and at twelve, obtained a three year university scholarship, eventually graduating with a Diploma of Music from Melbourne University. In 1937, Leyton-Brown moved to England with his mother and sister, where he continued to study the violin. He also went on to study in Germany and Belgium.

With the advent of the Second World War, Leyton-Brown joined the Royal Air Force, spending time in Estevan, Saskatchewan as an instructor as well as flying with the bombing command, which led to his receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross. In 1948, Leyton-Brown joined the London Philharmonic Orchestra as deputy concertmaster, eventually becoming concertmaster.

Doubts about the future of the London Philharmonic brought Leyton-Brown back to Estevan where he began to search for employment in Canada's music world. In 1952 he became head of the string department at the Conservatory of Music in Regina. In 1955, he became Director of the Conservatory, a position which he occupied until his retirement in June of 1986. His activities within the Department of Music at the University of Regina led to a Full Professorship in 1966. As well, Leyton-Brown has been an integral part of the Regina Symphony Orchestra, conducting the Symphony from 1960 to 1971 and becoming concertmaster in the mid-seventies. In 1971, Leyton-Brown completed a Doctorate of Musical Arts and Musical Performance at Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Leyton-Brown was appointed to the Canada Council for a four year term (1971-74) and was actively involved with the Saskatchewan Arts Board, as a member from 1966 to 1972, and as Director in 1967. He was also appointed to the Order of Canada in 1987. Leyton-Brown has performed internationally and many of his students have gone on to play in major symphonies in Canada, the United States, and overseas. He continued to teach violin and viola at the Conservatory after his retirement as its Director.

This collection reflects Leyton-Brown's various musical involvements, locally, provincially, and nationally, with an emphasis on his involvement with the Canada Council and the Saskatchewan Arts Board. Additional files pertaining to Howard Leyton-Brown exist within the Conservatory of Music Collection.

Note on Arrangement: Original order not deemed useable. New file titles and headings were generated. As well, Canada Council material not specifically relating to Leyton-Brown or concerned with music was removed, as it exists on file at the National Archives of Canada. Globe Theatre material in the collection consisted mainly of touring schedules and press releases and was not specific to Leyton-Brown. This material was sent to the Globe Theatre to supplement their archival collection. Saskatchewan Arts Board material was left with the collection, as the archives of that body held by the Saskatchewan Archives Board are not complete.

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