

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

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# THE PERFORMING ARTS AT BEECHWOOD



*Le cimetière national du Canada*

**BEECHWOOD**

*The National Cemetery of Canada*



**On the front page:**

Ida Van Cortland in costume for one of her roles.



## Violet Archer

Violet Archer (Violetta Balestreri) was born in Montreal to a family of immigrants from Italy, thus her use of “Archer” as a second surname. In response to her early interest in music, the family bought Violet (at age nine) a piano, and she soon received formal training. At age sixteen she began to compose music and her first composition, like many others in the course of her career, was an attempt to put poetical work into musical form.

Violet obtained a teacher's certificate for the piano from McGill University in 1934, the degree of Bachelor of Music in 1936, followed in 1938 by a diploma of the Royal Canadian College of Organists. Her extensive academic achievements included a Master of Music degree from Yale University in 1949. In 1942 she studied in New York under Hungarian composer Bela Bartók who suggested the use of folk melodies and harmonies in her compositions, and at Yale she was a student of Paul Hindemith. Her studies were supported by scholarships and fellowships from universities and the Canada Council, and her detailed knowledge of many instru-

ments, including the piano, organ, clarinet, strings and bass, provided a firm foundation for her compositions.

Violet Archer's earlier teaching positions included McGill and American universities. In 1962 she became a professor at the University of Alberta, where until 1990



she taught music and musical composition. She also served as the resident composer at the Banff Centre for the Arts. A list of her compositions, exceeding 120 works, includes a symphony and other orchestral works and various solo, trio and quartet pieces for the piano, organ, strings and other instruments. Many of her compositions were based on Biblical texts, poetry and folk songs, and many have been

recorded.

Violet Archer's accomplishments were recognized by numerous awards, including honorary degrees from a number of universities, and her appointment, in 1983, to the Order of Canada. In 1993 she was named by an American organization as “International Woman of the Year”, and in that year another American institution described her as “The most admired woman of the decade.” She died on February 21, 2000.

# Carmen Gallagher Jolicoeur

**B**orn Carmen Gallagher in Costa Rica in 1926, Jolicoeur's family moved to Montreal at age 4. There she attended the Montreal School of Fine Arts, and, from the age of 8 onwards, trained in ballet dancing. For several years she performed with a ballet company. In

1948, at age 22, Jolicoeur was awarded a four-year bursary by the Spanish government which provided travel to Spain and lessons in Spanish dance. There she developed a great interest in, and aptitude for, flamenco dancing. After two years in Spain, Jolicoeur began performing flamenco in a Madrid theatre and also danced with a ballet company that toured Scandinavia,

Britain, France and Italy.

Jolicoeur danced with Spain's internationally famous Antonio and in 1950 she soloed in Madrid's Old Fontalba The-

atre. In 1953, while on holiday in Canada she met and later married Paul Jolicoeur. In Montreal she established her own dance company and took on the stage name Carmen Cortez. She was featured on programs on CBC radio and television.

In 1973 the family moved to Ottawa and Jolicoeur began to teach flamenco at the Classical Ballet School of Ottawa. She became the first performer and teacher of Spanish dance in Canada. Jolicoeur also worked in the theatre, choreographing flamenco dance routines for various theatres, including Théâtre Triangle Vital in Montreal. Her career as a teacher lasted for more than a decade before she had to retire due to ill health which caused her death in 1998.

Carmen Jolicoeur, widely known

Spanish flamenco dancer died on October 10, 1998. "The Joy of Dance," a bronze sculpture by D. E. McDermott, stands atop her gravestone.



## Joseph Kun

**B**orn in 1930 in Czechoslovakia, Kun was a renowned craftsman known for creating violins and violin bows for international classical musicians, such as Janos Starker, Mischa Maisky and Mstislav Rostropovich. He came to Canada in 1968 and settled in Ottawa, where he opened his own shop. Kun was an accomplished luthier as well as a bow maker, and in addition to violins he crafted violas and violoncellos, and was also well known for his repair and restoration work. Valuable instruments, including Guarneris, Stradivaris and others were often sent to his workshop for delicate repairs.

Kun was also a master innovator; in 1972 he designed a shoulder-rest for violins that is now recognized world-wide as the best of its kind. Prior to his invention, there was no comparable product available, and violin and viola players often struggled to find solutions to the discomfort they experienced while playing their instruments.

Kun also co-authored the book “The Art of Bow-Making,” illustrating many of the techniques he developed throughout his career. In 1983, Kun’s bows won three gold medals and one silver medal at the biennial international competition for violin and bow makers. Joseph Kun died in Ottawa on April 8, 1996.



## Rockcliffe St. Patrick Fellowes

**B**orn in 1884 on St. Patrick's Day, Fellowes was one of Hollywood's early film stars. In 1903, at age 19, he married Lucile Watson, an American actress, and left Ottawa for New York. Lucile had lived most of her life in Ottawa before leaving for New York to study at the American Academy of Dramatic Art. She was an established stage actress when she married Fellowes and with her assistance he began his acting career, appearing on stage with noted actors of the time.

With the creation of the motion picture industry, Fellowes made a smooth transition from stage to silver screen. His first movie, called 'Regeneration,' was filmed in New York in 1915. It ran for three weeks at a local theater, much longer than the usual three days, and was considered quite a success.

In 1918, Fellowes took a break from the film business and joined the Siberian Expeditionary Force of the Canadian army. Once in Russia, he became quite ill and was hospitalized. By 1919 he had returned to America and his burgeoning film career. Lucile continued her stage career, and in 1921 the couple moved from Manhattan to a new house in the suburbs. Sadly, by 1928 they had divorced, possibly as a result of Fellowes following the movie

studios when they moved from New York to California, while Lucile was committed to the New York stage. She often played screen roles, however, and was nominated for an Oscar.

Many of Rockcliffe's movies were filmed in the "silent" era and one of them, with Joan Crawford as co-star, has been classed among the ten most famous silent

films. By 1929 the silent era was almost over and Rockcliffe's mystery-drama "The Charlatan" of that year was a "part-talkie." In some movies he played again, before the camera, his stage roles, such as in George Bernard Shaw's "Man and Superman." His skill in acting and his "ruggedly handsome" appearance made him a star, praised in 1925 as "one of the best actors on the screen today." He worked for the major film studios and with stars of the day, appearing with the Marx brothers in one of his last films, "Monkey Business," released in 1931.

Rockcliffe was known for his charm and wit and for his dedication to acting but his philosophy was not to take himself very seriously, and he worked, apparently, only when he needed money. After starring on stage and screen for more than three decades he retired from the profession in 1935. After his death in California on January 28, 1950, his body was returned to Ottawa for burial in Beechwood.



# James Peter Hiney & Grace Frances Findlay Phillips

**B**orn in Ferbane, King's County (now County Offaly), Ireland in 1856, James was a trained musician who studied in Munich for four years and spent another three years studying in Leipzig. He traveled extensively and was Conductor of the Presidency of Calcutta Band in India for five years. Later, James served as the bandmaster for the Northampton Militia and as a conductor with the D'Oyly- Carte Opera and the Southern Light Opera companies, both of which specialized in performing works by Gilbert and Sullivan. James immigrated to Canada in 1908 and was Bandmaster of the 7<sup>th</sup> Fusiliers. During WWI he became Senior Bandmaster of the Canadian Forces with headquarters in Shiloh, Manitoba. His job was to organize and train bands for the various regiments.

While attempting to board an Ottawa streetcar on June 24, 1919, the vehicle

started before he was entirely on board and he was dragged for several feet. The resulting injuries were serious, aggravating a preexisting condition. As a result, Hiney died a few days later, on June 27, 1919.

Born in the United Kingdom in 1896, Grace came to Canada with her father, James, and the rest of the family in 1908. Grace was an accomplished musician, and as a young woman played the violin for various groups in Ottawa, including the Orpheus Glee Club, and participated in amateur theatre in the area. Later, she studied in New York and was a violinist with the New York Symphony. After the death of James, Grace's mother, Mary, moved to New York City around 1920 to live with her daughter. Grace married Thomas Bruce Findlay on October 24, 1930. Following the death of her husband in 1941, Grace moved back to Ottawa where she remarried before her death in 1964.



# Ida Van Cortland Tavernier

**B**orn in 1853 as Ellen Buckley, Ida Van Cortland Tavernier was an actress of the Victorian era of Canadian life. Ellen and her family moved from England to Chicago, only to become victims of its great fire of 1871. The fire devastated the family, and left Ellen as the sole survivor. With few other options, she turned to teaching at age 16, and later moved to Guelph, Ontario to continue teaching. During this period, she married her first husband and gave birth to a son, Percy Algernon Fowler in 1876.

Before her son had turned two, Ellen and her husband had divorced and she had begun her career as an actress. She joined Charlotte Morrison's stage company, which performed in the Grand Opera House in Toronto when not on tour. It was around that time that Ellen Buckley became Ida Van Cortland and quickly rose to become a star performer, capable of playing a wide range of roles, but espe-

cially adept at expressing heavy emotion.

Ida met and married actor Albert Tavernier in the winter of 1881 when they were both acting for the same stage company,

touring the Maritimes. That summer, the couple married in New York City and together toured with US stage companies. Tavernier's son, Percy, took on a slightly garbled version of his stepfather's name and became Percy Algernon Tavernier, later a well-respected Canadian ornithologist. Eventually, the couple formed a company on their own, the Tavernier-Lewis Company, later just the Tavernier Company. The company toured Atlantic



Canada and the eastern seaboard of the United States in the 1880s, then moved on to Ontario and the northern USA before disbanding in 1896. By 1898 Ida had retired from the stage and lived on Big Island, Blue Sea Lake, Quebec. She remained there until her death in 1924 at age 69.



## Rex LeLacheur

**B**orn in Guernsey in the Channel Islands on January 5, 1910, LeLacheur was a composer, singer and choir conductor. He studied first in Guernsey with his father, F.M. LeLacheur, before moving to Canada in 1927 and continuing his music studies in Toronto with H.A. Fricker and English musician John Hughes Howell. LeLacheur's career took off, and he was soon singing on radio in Toronto, performing with Ernest Dainty's trio and was a finalist in the 1944 "Metropolitan Opera Auditions of the Air" contest. He moved to Ottawa, where he worked for a time in insurance, but by 1951 he was again focusing solely on music and was teaching, conducting choirs and composing.

Although mainly a choral composer, LeLacheur also completed *Sonata da*



*chiesa* (1957) for the carillonneur Robert Donnell. He wrote a number of songs and choral pieces which were published by Canadian Music Sales, Leeds, Harris, Chappell, and Archambault, including "Forever England" (1940, performed by the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir) and "Centennial Hymn" (1967), composed specifically for Canada's Centennial celebrations. LeLacheur's choral works were performed by the Rex LeLacheur Singers, active from 1956 to 1984, a 50-voice mixed choir. LeLacheur also served as a music consultant to the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons on the National and Royal Anthems in the late 1960s, and assisted in determining the official lyrics to 'O Canada.' He died in Ottawa on January 7, 1984.

## Dr. John William Bearder

Born in Bradford, Yorkshire, England on December 26, 1873, Bearder was an organist and composer. His musical talents became apparent at a young age – he was only 12 when he held the first of many positions as organist-choirmaster in English churches. Bearder's family came to Canada and initially settled in Sherbrooke, Quebec, where Bearder was the organist at St Peter's Anglican Church from 1907 to 1913. By 1913 he had relocated to Ottawa, where he served as the organist successively at All Saints Anglican Church and St Matthew's Anglican Church until 1950.

Bearder was also an active member of the musical community, and served as the president of the Canadian College of Organists from 1926 to 1927. He also founded the Ottawa Collegiate Institute Orchestra in 1915 and served as the mu-

sic director for the school from 1919 until 1938. Bearder supervised several other school orchestras until roughly 1950. He was an examiner from roughly 1928 to 1937 for Bishop's University and the Dominion College of Music.



During his long career, Bearder gave over 200 recitals in Ottawa churches, and composed and arranged many songs and choral pieces for church use and also wrote for violin and piano. Most of his works remain in manuscript, though his *Communion Service in B Flat*, *Morning Service*, and *Evening Service* were published by Woodward, London. Several of his songs, including 'Canadian Born,' 'When I Survey,' and 'Be Thou My Vision,' received public performance. Bearder also dabbled in journalism, and for a time was music editor of the *Ottawa Journal*.

Bearder died in Toronto on May 6, 1958 at age 84.

## Frederick Karam

**B**orn in Ottawa on March 26, 1926, Karam was a composer, organist, choir conductor, trombonist, singer and teacher. He studied music at the University of Toronto and at the Toronto Conservatory of Music and completed both a Bachelors and a Doctorate in music; for the latter, he submitted his cantata for choir and orchestra, *Lazarus*.

After completing his degrees, Karam returned to Ottawa where he served as the organist and choirmaster at St. Elijah Syrian Orthodox Church from 1950 to 1978. He also conducted the Ottawa Choral Society from 1955 to 1965, conducted an Ottawa CBC orchestra for eight years and directed the Toronto Opera Lovers' Group. Karam was also a teacher, and gave theory and voice lessons in addition to teaching harmony/counterpoint, compo-

sition, and voice from 1962 to 1978 at the University of Ottawa. When the Music Dept was established there in 1969, Karam took on the position of academic secretary.

Karam also composed several pieces which were recorded by BMI Canada throughout the 1950s, as well as a ballet for children and the sound tracks for three films.

His brother, Edward 'Ed' Michael Karam, was also musically inclined; in the 1950s he played in CBC Toronto orchestras and jazz groups and served as the music director for several CBC variety shows before leaving Canada in the mid-1960s to work as music director for Paul Anka. Ed settled in Hollywood, where he worked as a studio composer-arranger for recordings and TV shows by US singers, including Barbra Streisand, and also wrote TV and film



scores.

## Kenneth Meek

**B**orn in Truro, Cornwall, England, on May 21, 1908, Meek was an organist, choirmaster, harpsichordist, composer and teacher. Meek's family came to Canada in 1914 and settled in Ottawa. From 1920 to 1927 he studied in Ottawa with Herbert Sanders and in Toronto in 1936 with Herbert Fricker. Meek was recognized as an accomplished pianist and organist at a young age, and gave recitals in Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Montreal and other cities. He also gave organ recitals on CBC radio.

Meek taught organ, piano, and theory in Ottawa from 1924 to 1939, in Kingston from 1940 to 1944, and in Montreal at McGill University from 1945 to 1976. His

pupils included Mary Blaikie, Gian Lyman, Wayne Riddell, Gordon White, and Robert Wight. Meek also served as organist and

choirmaster at a number of churches in those cities, including the First Church of Christ Scientist in Ottawa from 1926 to 1936. Later, in Montreal, Meek played for the Church of St Andrew and St Paul from 1945 to 1956, the Christ Church Cathedral from 1956 to 1965 and the Church of the Messiah from 1965 to 1976.

Meek was an accomplished composer, and created works for recorder quartet, choir and organ. He produced some recordings himself, and several of his pieces were recorded by the Tudor Singers

of Montreal. Meek died in Montreal in 1976 at age 68.



## Harry Puddicombe

**B**orn June 14, 1871 in London, Ontario, Puddicombe was a Canadian composer, pianist, and music educator. In 1891, Puddicombe traveled to Germany to study the piano with Martin Krause in Leipzig. He studied with Krause through 1896 with the initial intention of pursuing a career as a concert pianist. However, he suffered from severe stage fright, which eventually forced him to abandon a performance career.

Puddicombe returned to Ottawa in 1901 and opened a private music studio. The following year he founded the Canadian Conservatory of Music, located on Bay Street in Ottawa, where he served as the school's director

for the next 35 years. His brother-in-law, the multi-talented Donald Heins, was enlisted as a member of the faculty and be-

came an instrumental part of the school's success. Heins notably established the school's symphony orchestra in 1903 and served as its director through 1927. In

1910 the orchestra was restructured to become Ottawa's first professional symphony orchestra. Puddicombe enlisted a number of notable musicians, including Annie Jenkins and Herbert Sanders. Among his notable pupils were Yvon Barette, Joseph Beaulieu, Gladys Ewart, Johana Harris, and Hélène Landry.

The Canadian Conservatory of Music closed in 1937, when the school's building was confiscated by the municipality of Ottawa to meet the expanding public school system's needs. Puddicombe continued to operate a

private studio through the latter years of his life. He died in Ottawa in 1953 at the age of 82.



## Sir Cecil Arthur Spring-Rice

**B**orn in London on February 27, 1859, Spring-Rice was the grandson the former Chancellor of the Exchequer Thomas Spring Rice, 1st Baron Monteagle of Brandon. He was educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford, and in 1882 entered the Foreign Office as Earl Granville's private secretary. He held a series of diplomatic posts including: Secretary of Legation in Brussels, Washington, Tokyo, Berlin and Constantinople; Charge d'Affaires Tehran (1900); British Commissioner of the Public Debt in Cairo (1901); 1st Secretary St Petersburg (1903); Minister and Consul General Persia (1906); Minister in Sweden (1908-1913); and British Ambassador in Washington (1912-1917).

Spring-Rice was also a poet, and his

works were edited posthumously in 1920 by Bernard Holland. He is perhaps best remembered as the author of the present text for the legendary hymn *I Vow to Thee My Country*, which can now be found in



many British Hymn books. The lyrics are based on an original poem Spring-Rice wrote shortly before his death. The hymn was sung at both the wedding and the funeral of Princess Diana, as it was one of her favorites since childhood.

Spring-Rice was recalled from his post as ambassador to the United States in 1918. The family travelled to Ottawa to stay with Canada's then-Governor General, the Duke of Devonshire, a relative of Lady

Spring-Rice. After a day of skiing, Spring-Rice took ill and died suddenly on February 14, 1918, age 59.

# John Edgar Birch

**A**n organist and composer, Birch was born in Reading, England on August 25, 1862. The son of an Oxford professor of music, Birch was a chorister in the Royal Chapel in Windsor, later studying in London. When he came to Canada around 1891, Birch became organist and music master at Trinity College in Port Hope, Ontario. In 1894, he moved to Montreal where he was organist at Christ Church Cathedral and a professor at the Dominion College of Music.

In 1895, Birch moved to Ottawa where he was appointed principal of the Canadian College of Music and became the director of the Schubert Club. He also served as the organist for various local churches, including St. George's Anglican, Knox Presbyterian and the then-newly completed All Saint's Anglican in Sandy Hill.

In 1897, Birch founded the Ottawa Choral Society, conducting the group's first concert on January 11, 1898 and remained conductor until 1914. Birch remained an organist and teacher until his death on October 23, 1931.

# Frank Maurice Stinson Jenkins

**B**orn in Kingston, Canada West in 1859, Jenkins came to Ottawa as a boy and remained a resident of the city for the rest of his life, taking an active part in sporting and cultural circles. He played on the original Ottawa Hockey Club, serving as its captain in 1890 and its president in 1891. Jenkins also served as the president of the Amateur Hockey Association of Canada and was an avid curler with the Rideau Curling Club.

Jenkins was also a talented musician. In December 1885, he played in an organ recital at Christ Church of Ottawa where he opened the program with a "meritorious and well-received playing" of Mendelssohn's First Sonata. He was an organist at several churches in Ottawa, including Knox Church in 1886 and 1887, Dominion Methodist from 1887 until 1895, St. Andrew's from 1895–1909 and St. John's Anglican from 1910.

Jenkins was married to poet Archibald Lampman's sister Annie, accomplished in her own right as a pianist, organist and choir director. Together, the couple founded Ottawa's first full-size symphony orchestra in 1894, the Ottawa Amateur Orchestral Society. The Society's first performance was in December 1894, and Jenkins conducted the orchestra until 1900. From 1897 to 1914 he also was also an organizer of the Ottawa Schubert Club Choral Society, later known as the Ottawa Choral Society. The Society, a group of 175 amateurs, gave its first performance on December 29, 1896 in the Grand Opera House with Jenkins conducting. Jenkins died in Ottawa on December 5, 1930.

# Leonard Stanley Foss

**B**orn December 21, 1906 in Ottawa, Foss worked as an organist and music teacher. By age 18, Foss was serving as the organist and choirmaster at St. James' Anglican Church in Hull. Four years later, he moved to Erskine Presbyterian Church in Ottawa, where he worked for a year. Not long after, Foss began working as the organist and choirmaster for St. Luke's Church on Somerset Street, a position he held for over 50 years. In addition, Foss served as the Musical Director of Sunday Schools for the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa and taught music at Camp Pontiac, a religious summer camp in Quyon, Que. Foss was also a member of the Royal Canadian College of Organists, and was made their third Honorary Life Member in the mid-1960s.

Foss was dedicated to his profession, and was known for being a firm and demanding choirmaster. A profile of him appeared in the Ottawa Journal in the mid 1950's, which noted that he had high standards regarding church music, and expected a great deal from the boys in his choir. Journalist Jean Southworth wrote that Foss felt that "music for the church can't be too good," and that "there is a greater need today than ever before for careful selection of church music. Anthems should not be showpieces but part of the worship and anything in the nature of 'cheap' music is an unworthy offering."

Foss' dedication to St. Luke's was not unnoticed. A December 1975 celebration was held in his honour, to mark his 45th anniversary with the church. And in 1980, less than a year before his death, Foss' 50 years of service at St. Luke's were commemorated by naming the choir's practice room "The Leonard S. Foss Choir Room." Foss died July 29, 1981.





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