

## John Laing Biography



John Laing, conductor, composer, organist and pianist, was born in London U.K. He began to play the piano and compose at a very young age, and he became a treble chorister in the Choir of King's College, Cambridge under Sir David Willcocks. He returned to Cambridge as Organ Scholar of Corpus Christi College, where he obtained a Bachelor of Music Degree, a Master of Arts Degree, and Fellowship of The Royal College of Organists. He held the post of Assistant Director of Music at Wycliffe College, Gloucestershire, after which he came to Canada at the age of twenty-seven.

Mr. Laing has had a distinguished career in several fields of music. As organist, harpsichordist and piano accompanist, he has given many concerts in North America and Europe. He has also conducted excellent choirs, including the nationally renowned John Laing Singers, which he founded, and conducted for three decades, the Canadian Centennial Choir, the now world-renowned Hamilton Children's Choir, as well as his new professional ensemble Voces Animae. As a church musician, his long and successful career has included the directorships of music at Cathedrals in Montreal and Hamilton, at St. Jude's, Oakville, where he was Founder and Director of the famed Celebration of the Arts concert series, and currently at The Church of the Ascension, Hamilton. During the past two decades John has devoted much time and energy to composition, and his works have been widely performed to warm appreciation and recorded on CDs by many top class artists.

For his services to music and to the community, Mr. Laing has received The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal (Canada), The Freedom of the City of London (U.K.), The Musician of the Year Award from the City of Hamilton, The Life Membership Award of the Hamilton Musicians' Guild, Honorary Citizenship of Sarasota (Florida), The Order of Niagara from the Anglican Church of Canada, and The Above and Beyond Award from the Oakville Arts Council.