



**Press Release**  
**June 16, 2007**

### **First Original Composition for Seaway Winds Concert Band**

Seaway Winds has commissioned **Howard Cable**, to compose an original musical composition to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project, which resulted in the construction of the international Moses-Saunders Dam at Cornwall, whose Canadian side houses the Robert H. Saunders Generating Station. This project has been made possible through the financial support of Ontario Power Generation, owner of the generating station.

Seaway Winds Concert Band is in its sixth year of operation. It has a membership of more than forty musicians and performs regularly in Cornwall and surrounding areas. This is the first piece of music to be composed specifically for the Concert Band.

Howard Cable is one of Canada's great composers and supporters of Canadian music in general. His career includes work with highly respected musicians in Canada and the United States. The attached bibliography from the Encyclopedia of Music in Canada provides the long list of accomplishments and accolades to his credit.

Mr. Cable was recently commissioned to compose a suite of music for the Lambton Concert Band in Petrolia, Ontario. The Composition, titled "Hard Oil", recognizes the drilling of the first Ontario oil well in 1858 in the Petrolia area. Before starting the composition he spent considerable time researching the history and visited the site to hear all of the sounds associated with the industry. The composition incorporates the sound of the construction and drilling of a well and finally the gushing of the oil.

For the fiftieth anniversary of the Robert H. Saunders Generating Station, Mr. Cable will compose a three movement suite to be a lasting tribute to this outstanding engineering accomplishment in Ontario. In preparation for the composition, Mr. Cable will be visiting Cornwall on Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup>. He plans to visit the generating station and also attend the Seaway Winds Concert at 8pm at Aultsville Theatre. The premiere performance of the composition by the Seaway Winds Concert Band will take place at the Robert .H. Saunders Generating Station's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in the summer of 2008.

Mr. Cable will be available for interviews on Saturday afternoon, June 16<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Carole Mundy to arrange an appointment.

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## Cable, Howard

Cable, Howard (Reid). Conductor, arranger, music director, composer, scriptwriter, radio and television producer, b Toronto 15 Dec 1920; ATCM conducting and bandmastership 1939, honorary DFA (Lethbridge) 2002. Cable studied piano, clarinet, and oboe, and played in the Parkdale Collegiate Institute orchestra under [Leslie Bell](#). While leading a dance band, the Cavaliers, 1935-41 in Toronto and at southern Ontario summer resorts, he studied at the [Toronto Conservatory of Music](#) with [Sir Ernest MacMillan](#), [Ettore Mazzoleni](#), and [Healey Willan](#). He also studied with [John Weinzweig](#) in 1945.

### Positions in Radio, Television, and the CNE

Cable began his radio career in 1936 on CFRB, Toronto, as a programmer and scriptwriter, and began working for the CBC in 1941 as a composer of incidental music, soon succeeding [Percy Faith](#) (who had moved to Chicago) as CBC Toronto's leading conductor-arranger-composer. In the 1940s Cable was responsible for such radio shows as 'Music by Cable,' 'Canadian Cavalcade,' and 'Jolly Miller Time.' Over the years, Cable conducted and broadcast more than 1,000 radio dramas. He was music director and arranger 1948-54 for 'Canadian General Electric Hour' and 1954-9 for the television program 'Showtime.' His concert band was heard 1952-4 on the CBC and in the USA on the MBS network. It was the nucleus of his orchestra at the [CNE Grandstand](#), where he was music director 1953-67 and assistant producer to [Jack Arthur](#) 1963-7. In 1968 he became Arthur's successor and produced *Sea to Sea!*, a pageant based on Canadian history. He was music director 1954-8 and executive producer 1958-67 for General Motors automobile shows in Canada. He also produced and directed events at the [Canadian National Exhibition](#) and the Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

### Conductor and Arranger

Cable was the civilian associate conductor and arranger 1962-6 of the NORAD Command Band in Colorado Springs. He returned to Canada to be executive producer of on-site entertainment at [Expo 67](#) in Montreal. In 1977 Cable began a 20-year association with the [Canadian Brass](#) as arranger. While working with the Canadian Brass, Cable arranged for collaborative performances with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir as well as a performance at Lincoln Centre with the New York Philharmonic Brass. At the Charlottetown Festival (1982-6) he arranged the scores for the Alan Lund productions of *Singin' and Dancin' Tonight!*, *Ye Gods!*, and *Swing!*. In 1986 he began to guest-conduct leading Canadian orchestras in concerts featuring his own arrangements. In 1987 he was music director of the Halifax Summer Pops Orchestra. The following year he became principal pops conductor of [Orchestra London Canada](#) and the [Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra](#) and, in 1990, of the [Hamilton Philharmonic](#). Also in 1990 he became music consultant for [Sharon, Lois, and Bram](#). Over the years he has composed and arranged for and conducted the [Elmer Iseler Singers](#), the [Toronto Mendelssohn Choir](#), the [Toronto Children's Chorus](#), the Timmins Concert Singers, the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra, the [Calgary Philharmonic](#), the Lethbridge Community Band Society, [Symphony Nova Scotia](#), the True North Brass, Empire Brass, the [Hannaford Street Silver Band](#), and many other musical groups.

### Musical Theatre

Cable worked in musical theatre and other musical endeavours with Ella Fitzgerald, Tony Bennett, Peggy Lee, Bob Hope, Victor Borge, Danny Kaye, and Jim Carrey. In New York 1964-7 he worked as a studio conductor and, on Broadway, as an arranger for Richard Rodgers, Frank Loesser, and Meredith Willson, and as conductor of *Man of*

*La Mancha* and *Chu-Chem*. His Canadian theatrical credits include associations with the National Ballet, as well as the Banff, Shaw, and Charlottetown festivals. At the [Banff CA](#), he was music director 1975-83 of the Summer Musical Theatre training program, and program head 1984-6. He was head 1983-5 of the music department at Humber College, Toronto, and music director 1974-86 of the Royal York Hotel, Toronto. In 1982 he conducted the premiere of [Beckwith's](#) opera [The Shivarée](#). In 1989 with co-director Alan Lund, Cable began a summer training program in musical theatre techniques and production at [Dalhousie University](#). The program was suspended after two seasons.

## Compositions and Recordings

Cable's compositions include many scores for CBC radio and TV and ten film scores for [National Film Board](#) (1946-51). He wrote three works based on Newfoundland folk songs collected on a visit he made there in 1947 with Leslie Bell: *Newfoundland Sketches* for strings (1948, GVT), *Newfoundland Rhapsody* for band (1956, Chappell), and *Newfoundland Sketch* for brass quintet (Brassworks, 1978). Compositions for band include *Stratford Suite*, *Quebec Folk Fantasy*, and *Snake Fence Country* (all published in the 1950s by Chappell), and *Ontario Pictures* (1984, Northdale). *Newfoundland Rhapsody* was recorded by the [Barrie Collegiate Band](#) (1969, T-56424), the Toronto Philharmonia (1967, Dominion LPS-21024), the Edmonton Wind Ensemble (1987, CBC SM-5079), and Cable's own Symphonic Band (see Discography). Cable's first published arrangement of Calixa [Lavallée's](#) [O Canada](#) was written for [Expo '67](#). (He later rearranged his *O Canada* as a more singable version without key, published by Northdale Music Press Limited in 1996.) His musical play, *Mary* (libretto by Christopher Gore, based on the life of Mary, Queen of Scots), was produced at the Charlottetown Festival in 1971 and 1972. With Peggy Feltmate he wrote a children's oratorio, *Your Work With Love Surrounds You* (Boston Music, 1973), and a musical about ecology, *Rana's Pond* (GVT, 1975). For chorus he has arranged three suites based on Canadian folk songs - 'Sing, Sea to Sea!' (GVT, 1984), 'Noel Canadien' (GVT, 1984), and 'Pastiche Quebecois' (GVT, 1979) - and has composed a setting of 'T'was the Night before Christmas.' 'Sing, Sea to Sea!' has been recorded by the [Toronto Children's Chorus](#) (TCC WRC1-1456/Centrediscs CMC-2285) and the [Ottawa Choral Society](#) (1990, unnumbered cassette). The Toronto Children's Chorus also recorded his settings of 'Noël nouvelet' and 'D'ou viens-tu bergère' (TCC-009-CD).

During his association with the Canadian Brass, Cable wrote more than 80 compositions and arrangements. Several of these arrangements are published by Brassworks/Hal Leonard, and his arrangements of music from Broadway shows are published by Chappell and Morris. To 2001, Cable created and conducted three orchestral organ events entitled Power, Pops and Pipes, with the Calgary Philharmonic, renowned British organists Wayne Marshall and Simon Preston, and the Canadian jazz organist Doug [Riley](#).

Also, in 2000, Cable composed *Scottish Rhapsody*, based on the songs of Scottish poet Robbie Burns (1759-96). In 2002 he conducted Symphony Nova Scotia for the recording of his CD *Cable for All Seasons*, which included the 50th anniversary theme song, composed by Dolores [Claman](#) (and arranged by Cable) for *Hockey Night in Canada*. The same year, Cable was commissioned to write a composition for concert band for the Thornhill, Ont community band for its bicentennial. *Thornhill 200* is a work in theme and variations form that relates to various Thornhill landmarks.

## Awards and Recognition

In 1980 Cable received the Canadian Band Directors' Association Award for his contribution to the development of Canadian band music at all levels. He was president of [CAPAC](#) 1969-71 and is an associate of the [Canadian Music Centre](#). Cable was appointed a Member of the [Order of Canada](#) by the Governor General in 1999.

His association with many respected orchestras, bands, and choral groups, and his extensive work with musical theatre, radio, and television, has placed him in popular demand by musical groups across North America and around the world.

## Discography

*Music by Cable*. 1962. CTL S -5002

*Howard Cable and His Orchestra* 1962. CTL S-5010

*Howard Cable's Orchestra*. 1964. CTL S -5056

*Souvenir de Québec: DeCelles - O'Neill - Allard*. Cable Concert Band, DeCelles conductor. 1965. RCA PCS-1003

*Music in the Round: Cable - Weinzweig - Applebaum - Gayfer - K. Campbell - O'Neill*. Cable Concert Band, Cable conductor. RCA PCS-1004/Citadel CT-6007

*Cable for All Seasons: Cable, Symphony Nova Scotia*. 2002. CD CBC SM-5000

Also, as conductor, two LPs of pop songs for the CBC in 1950 (RCI 13 and 14), and a recording of Serge [Garant's](#) *Anerca* with a chamber ensemble and soprano [Mary Morrison](#). See also Discography for Feldbrill.

## Bibliography

Flynn, Bob E. 'Getting acquainted with Howard Cable,' *Radio World*, 8 Dec 1945

Frayne, Trent. 'Howard Cable,' *Liberty*, 2 Feb 1946

Callwood, June. 'Arrangements by Cable,' *Maclean's*, 15 Jun 1949

'Musician for all seasons,' *CanComp*, 27, Mar 1968

Kirby, Blaik. 'Good bands, no debt - Cable's bounced back from fall in fortunes,' *Toronto Globe and Mail*, 2 Nov 1974

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Pedersen, Stephen. 'Cable musical link across Canada,' *Halifax Mail Star*, 4 Dec 1986

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