**Patriquin, Donald (1938-)**

Jeremy Strachan

Known chiefly for contributing to choral repertoire in Canada, Donald Patriquin was born at Sherbrooke, Quebec, and studied composition as a teenager with Jean Papineau-Couture, and later in Montreal with Istvan Anhalt and in Toronto with John Weinzweig. Patriquin’s prolific catalogue of work includes expanded tonal settings of texts by Shakespeare (*A LOVER AND HIS LASS*, 1968), Henry David Thoreau (*REFLECTIONS ON WALDEN POND* for choir, violin, cello and piano, 2000), and William Blake (*SONGS OF INNONCE* for choirs, harp, and flute, 1984). Main compositional activities have focused on arranging folk songs from around the world, especially various regions of Canada. Representative of these are *SIX SONGS OF EARLY CANADA* (1980) and *SIX NOËLS ANCIENS* (1982), which are frequently performed. Patriquin’s many compositions for children’s choir make use of non-lexical sounds in imitating the soundscape, drawing on the timbral, percussive, and expressive possibilities of voices. Of his non-vocal works, *HANGMAN’S REEL* for fiddle and string orchestra, commissioned by the Grand Ballets Canadian (1978) remains one of the most significant, and assembles gigs, reels, airs and other vernacular dances into a thirty-minute suite. Issues of cultural awareness, humanitarianism, and global peace provide thematic foundations for Patriquin’s music after about 1985.

**Selected List of Works**

*HANGMAN’S REEL*, 1978

*SIX SONGS OF EARLY CANADA*, 1980

*EARTHPEACE I & II*,1988

*ANTIPHON AND THE CHILD OF MARY*, 1992

*CANADIAN MOSAIC (WORLD MUSIC SUITE TWO)*, 1997

*MASS FOR THE CARIBBEAN*, 1998

*REQUIEM FOR THE TITANIC*, 1999

**Photo**

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Source: <http://www.donaldpatriquin.com/Bio_files/Donald%20Patriquin%2008%20Thoreau%20image%20David%20Wray.jpg>

**Links**

Donald Patriquin’s YouTube page, featuring several live performances of his works: <http://www.youtube.com/user/choralmusicpatriquin#p/a>

Patriquin’s biography on the Canadian Music Centre website, which links to scores, archival and commercial recordings:

<http://www.musiccentre.ca/apps/index.cfm?fuseaction=composer.FA_dsp_biography&authpeopleid=3414&by=P>

**References**

Higgins, H. (ed). (2001) *In Their Own Words: Canadian Choral Conductors.* Toronto: Dundurn. (Patriquin contributes the final chapter in this work dedicated to prominent choral conductors, discussing his life, work, and reflections on choral music in Canada.)

Patriquin, Donald. <http://www.donaldpatriquin.com> (Accessed October 2012) (The composer’s own website, including comprehensive and thematic-oriented list of compositions, reviews, media, etc.)

Vachon, Jean-Paul and Ware, Evan (2012). “Patriquin, Donald.” *Encyclopedia of Music in Canada*. Historica Foundation. <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/articles/emc/donald-patriquin> (Accessed October 2012) (One of the only in-depth overviews of Patriquin’s life, education, and compositions.)