Harry Somers at 100: Reflections on His Life and Legacy A Centenary Symposium at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music

For further reading:

- Beckwith, John. 2002. "Canadians as Chopped Liver [review of Somers recordings]." *Musicworks* 82, 55–58.
- ——. 2022. "Naughty Harry [review of Scoular 2009]." *Music Annals: Research and Critical Writings by a Canadian Composer, 1973–2014.* Toronto: Institute for Music in Canada.
- Beckwith, John and Brian Cherney, eds. 2011. *Weinzweig: Essays on His Life and Music.*Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press.
- Braz, Albert. 2020. "Singing Louis Riel: The Centennial Quest for Representative Canadian Heros." Canadian Review of Comparative Literature 47/1, 107–122.
- Buckler, Lillian. 1984. *The Use of Folk Music in Harry Somers' Opera* Louis Riel. MA thesis, University of Alberta.
- Cherney, Brian. 1975. *Harry Somers*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- ———, ed. 2024. Between Composers: The Letters of Norma Beecroft and Harry Somers. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press.
- Clark, Caryl et al. 2018. "Editors' Introduction: Hearing *Riel.*" *University of Toronto Quarterly* 87/4, 1–9.
- Cooper, Jennifer Brimson. 2012. The Weinzweig School: The Flute Works of Harry Freedman, Harry Somers, R. Murray Schafer, Srul Irving Glick and Robert Aitken. University of Cincinnati DMA thesis.
- Cornfield, Eitan. 2006. *Harry Somers* [audio documentary]. Toronto: Centrediscs 50963–50966.
- Danckert, Paula. 2018. "Louis Riel: History, Theatre, and a National Narrative—An Evolving ... Story." University of Toronto Quarterly 87/4, 39–50.
- Eldon, Benjamin Robert. 2014. *Harry Somers' String Quartet No. 2: An Analytical Study of the Idea of Unification*. University of Alberta MA thesis.
- Elliott, Robin. 2013. "Neglected Canadian Orchestral Music." *Intersections: Canadian Journal of Music* 33/2, 127–139.
- ———. 2017. "Brian Cherney as Scholar and Creative Artist." *Intersections: Canadian Journal of Music* 37/1, 39–52.
- ———. 2018. "The Genesis and First Production of *Louis Riel." University of Toronto Quarterly* 87/4, 10–21.
- Giroux, Monique. 2018. "The Goddamn [Opera] Is Dead! How the Canadian Opera Company's Re-staging of *Louis Riel* Continued a Legacy of Marginalization and Forgetting." *Canadian Notes & Queries* web exclusive, January. Online at https://www.notesandqueries.ca/essays/the-goddamn-opera-is-dead/
- Hinton, Peter. 2018. "Director's Notes [on Louis Riel]." University of Toronto Quarterly 87/4, 37–38.
- Karantonis, Pamela and Dylan Robinson, eds. 2011. *Opera Indigene: Re/presenting First Nations and Indigenous Cultures*. London and New York: Routledge.

- Koval, Sarah and Taryn Dubois. "Can Opera Listen? Canada's (Sesqui) Centennial Opera, Louis Riel." University of Toronto Quarterly 87/4, 59–72.
- Lee, Sherry D. 2018. "Radical Modernism, Operatic Failure, and *Louis Riel*'s Challenge to Reconciliation." *University of Toronto Quarterly* 87/4, 22–28.
- Olnick, Harvey. 1959. "Harry Somers." The Canadian Journal of Music 3/4, 3–23.
- Renihan, Colleen. 2011a. Sounding the Past: Canadian Opera as Historical Narrative. University of Toronto PhD thesis.
- ——. 2011b. "The Politics of Genre: Exposing Historical Tensions in Harry Somers's *Louis Riel.*" In Karantonis and Robinson, *Opera Indigene*, 259–276.
- ———. 2018. "Haunting Riel." University of Toronto Quarterly 87/4, 51–58.
- Robinson, Dylan, producer. 2025. Amuksism (documentary film)...
- Schafer, R. Murray. 1972. *The Public of the Music Theatre*—Louis Riel: *A Case Study*. Vienna: Universal Edition.
- [Scoular, William, ed.] 2009. Secret Agent: The Selected Journals and Letters of Harry Somers. Toronto: privately published.
- Simonot-Maiello, Colette. 2018. "Decolonizing' *Riel.*" *University of Toronto Quarterly* 87/4, 73–82.
- Stonyk, Nicole. 2023. The Embodiment and 'Refusal' of the White Possessive in Opera: A Comparative Analysis of Louis Riel and Li Keur. MA thesis, University of Manitoba.
- Teillet, Jean. 2018. "The Sermon from the Mount: The Messages in the Canadian Opera Company's Remount of the *Riel* Opera." *University of Toronto Quarterly* 87/4, 29–36.
- Zapf, Donna. 2004. Singing History, Performing Race: An Analysis of Three Canadian Operas—Beatrice Chancy, Elsewhereless, and Louis Riel. University of Victoria PhD thesis.
- Zinck, Andrew Michael. 1990. *Theatrical Communication in Harry Somers' Opera* Louis Riel. University of Alberta MMus thesis.
- ———. 1996a. *Music and Dramatic Structure in the Operas of Harry Somers*. University of Toronto PhD thesis.
- ——. 1996b. "An Interview with Harry Somers." Windsor Review 29/2, 56–72.

Discography: Major Recording Releases

- Harry Somers Anthology of Canadian Music: Radio Canada International ACM–7, recorded from 1947 to 1973 and released as a 10–LP box set in 1980. Includes Scherzo for Strings (1947); Rhapsody for violin and piano (1948); North Country (1948); Suite for Harp and Chamber Orchestra (1949); String Quartet No. 2 (1950); The Fool (1953); Violin Sonata No. 1 (1953); Passacaglia and Fugue for orchestra (1954); Violin Sonata No. 2 (1955); Where Do We Stand, O Lord? (1955); Two Songs for the Coming of Spring (1955); Five Songs for Dark Voice (1956); Fantasia for Orchestra (1958); String Quartet No. 3 (1959); Symphony for Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion (1961); Gloria (1962); Twelve Miniatures (1963); The Wonder Song (1964); Evocations (1966); Five Songs of the Newfoundland Outports (1969); Voiceplay (1971); Music for Solo Violin (1973).
- Sacred and Profane Somers, Centrediscs CMCCD 5495, 1995; includes Five Songs of the Newfoundland Outports (1969); Kyrie (1972); Three Limericks (1980).

- The Spring of Somers, CBC SMCD5162, 1996; includes North Country (1948); Suite for Harp and Chamber Orchestra (1949); Symphony No. 1 (1951).
- Harry Somers Celebration, CBC SMCD 5199, 2000; includes Five Songs for Dark Voice (1956); Elegy, Transformation, Jubilation (1981); Third Piano Concerto (1996).
- Canadian Composers Portraits: Harry Somers, Centrediscs CMCCD 11306 (4 CDs), 2006; includes audio documentary by Eitan Cornfield plus North Country (1948); Suite for harp and chamber orchestra (1949); Symphony No. 1 (1951); Five Songs for Dark Voice (1956); Lyric for orchestra (1960); Picasso Suite (1964); Elegy, Transformation, Jubilation (1981); Concertante for violin, percussion and string orchestra (1982); Of Memory and Desire (1993); Third Piano Concerto (1996).

A Window on Somers series: all from the Centrediscs label

- 1. Singing Somers Theatre CMCCD 6901 (2001)
- 2. Songs from the Heart of Somers CMCCD 7001 (2001)
- 3. The Glorious Sounds of Somers CMCCD 7101 (2001)
- 4. Somers Strings CMCCD 7401 (2001)
- 5. Somers String Quartets CMCCD 7501 (2001)
- 6. Serinette CMCCD 76/7701 (2001)
- 7. A Midwinter Night's Dream CMCCD 12306 (2006)
- 8. The Fool / The Death of Enkidu CMCCD 14209 (2009)
- 9. Piano Works CMCCD 14509 (2009)
- 10. Chura-Churum / The Merman of Orford CMCCD 15309 (2009)
- 11. Live from Toronto: Harry Somers CMCCD 15911 (2011)
- 12. Louis Riel CMCDVD 16711 (2011)