

Harry Somers at 100: Reflections on His Life and Legacy

A Centenary Symposium at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music
September 27, 2025

To mark the centennial of the birth of Harry Somers (b. Toronto 11 September 1925; d. Toronto 9 March 1999), one of Canada's most influential composers, a one-day symposium will be held at the University of Toronto to bring together music scholars and performers for a program of reflection and exchange. Highlights include papers examining Somers's legacy and artistic contributions, a short recital, and a keynote address by Brian Cherney, the author of *Harry Somers* (1975). This event invites participants to reflect on Somers's lasting impact on Canadian creative and intellectual life and to join a broader conversation about art, identity, and cultural memory. The events are in the Edward Johnson Building, room 330 unless otherwise noted. All are welcome.

The provisional schedule for the day's events is as follows:

- 9:15 am Opening and welcome: Robin Elliott
- 9:30 am "A Quick Peek through 'A Window on Somers'": David Jaeger
- 10:0 am Round Table: Performers' perspectives on the music of Somers
- 11:00 am Recital of solo and chamber works by Harry Somers (*Walter Hall*)
- 12:00 pm Complimentary catered lunch for all participants
- 1:00 pm Three short papers about Harry Somers:
 - Anton Vishio: "Polyphony, Antiphony, *Stereophony*: Spatial Thinking in Somers"
 - Robin Elliott: "Harry Somers and Indigenous Culture"
 - John Fraser "The Pleasure of His Company: Harry Somers at Ease"
- 2:00 pm Keynote presentation: Brian Cherney, McGill University
- 3:00 pm Close of the day sessions
- 8:00 pm University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra concert, including Somers's *Passacaglia and Fugue* (1954) and works by Benjamin Gabbay, Haydn, and Beethoven (in Tribute Communities Recital Hall, *York University*)

Scan the QR code to access the symposium website and more information about Harry Somers and the event:

