



**BARRY GOSSE, ARCT,
B.MUS, M.MUS**

1937 – 1995

Music was the defining centre of Barry Gosse's life. He taught music classes, performed in concerts, composed original works, conducted orchestras, and judged musical competitions, specializing in both instrumental and choral music.

Gosse grew up in the Long Branch area of Etobicoke and attended New Toronto Secondary School. His musical genius appeared early, when he began composing and conducting at age thirteen. He studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music and the University of Toronto, as well as the Eastman School of Music in Rochester.

Gosse had many remarkable accomplishments throughout his career. He founded the Etobicoke Youth Orchestra and was its Conductor for seventeen years. He prepared hundreds of young performers for the Kiwanis Music Festival and was a Festival adjudicator. Gosse also served as Coordinator of Music for the Etobicoke Board of Education for twenty-eight years and as the Director of the Etobicoke Centennial Choir for twenty years. He was the Director of Music and organist for the Islington United Church for two decades. Gosse also composed more than one hundred original songs, including a piece written for one thousand voices, which was performed during Queen Elizabeth's 1977 visit to Toronto.

It is clear why Gosse earned the nickname "Mr. Music." In their notes to Etobicoke City Council, the nominating committee stated: "If for no other reason than his untiring efforts to introduce as many young people as possible to the beauty which is music, Mr. Gosse deserves recognition... his talent was such that at any time he could have left Etobicoke behind and moved on to enhance his own career. That Mr. Gosse chose to continue to promote music in Etobicoke speaks volumes for why we, the Committee, feel he would be a valuable addition to the Hall of Fame."

Inducted into the Etobicoke Hall of Fame in 1987