

Peter Nikiforuk

Theory



Peter Nikiforuk is a native of Brantford, Ontario, where he received his early musical training in piano, organ and theory with Nan and Markwell Perry. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Toronto where John Tuttle was his teacher. During his last two years in Toronto, Dr. Nikiforuk was assistant conductor of the Hart House Chorus, founding conductor of the Hart House Chorus Chamber Choir and assistant organist at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene. In 1985 Dr. Nikiforuk moved to the United States to study with Robert Baker and Thomas Murray at Yale University. The recipient of numerous prizes and scholarships, he was awarded the Master of Music (1987) and Master of Musical Arts (1988) degrees while resident in the U.S. In 1993 Dr. Nikiforuk was awarded the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts, also from Yale University. In the academic year 1988-1989, he studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London, England, graduating with an Advanced Course Diploma. His teachers there were John Scott and Patrick Russill. Dr. Nikiforuk returned to Canada in 1989 to accept the posts of Executive Director of the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO) and Director of Music at St. Peters Lutheran Church, Kitchener. From 1993-97 Dr. Nikiforuk was director of the Listowel Concert Singers. In 1996, the St. Peters choirs released a CD entitled *O Be Joyful*. Also in 1996, he won the prestigious Leslie Bell Prize in Choral Conducting. In 1997, he produced and wrote the program notes for the RCCO's first recording project, an archival release entitled *Healey Willan at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene*, distributed on the EMI Classics label. In 2000, Dr. Nikiforuk resigned from his position at the RCCO in order to become an instructor of music theory and history at the Beckett School in Kitchener. He is now in his 14th year as Director of Music at St. Peter's. Dr. Nikiforuk began his association with Menno Singers in early 1998 and was appointed director in the spring of that year. He is co-owner and editor for Kelman Hall Publishing, which specializes in sacred music and is also an active recitalist and clinician. Dr. Nikiforuk has taught at the Universities of Guelph and Waterloo and at Wilfrid Laurier University.