

Robert Turner



A Winnipeg-based composer of more than 70 compositions has died.

Robert Turner, a professor emeritus in the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Music, died Thursday night. He was 91.

According to the University of Manitoba website, Turner was born in Montreal in 1920 and studied piano at an early age.

He received his bachelor of music degree at McGill University in Montreal and studied music composition at the Royal College of Music in London and at Vanderbilt University's George Peabody College in the United States.

Turner's first major composition, String Quartet No. 1, written in 1949, was premiered by Aaron Copland and was acclaimed by both Copland and Leonard Bernstein. Turner later composed operas, concertos, symphonies and string quartets.

He became a professor at the U of M in 1968 and helped teach several future composers, including Winnipeg's Glenn Buhr. Turner retired from teaching in 1985.

To help celebrate his 70th birthday in 1990, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra performed five of his major works.

He was named to the Order of Canada in 2003.