

3. DOUGLAS LILBURN AUDITORIUM - CHRISTCHURCH TOWN HALL

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The purpose of this report is to recommend to the Council that it consider recognising Douglas Lilburn, of Christchurch, New Zealand's leading 1900s contemporary composer, by naming the Christchurch Town Hall auditorium in his honour, as the Douglas Lilburn Auditorium.

HISTORY

Douglas Lilburn was born 2 November 1915 in Wanganui, he studied music at the University of Canterbury (1934 - 1936) and the Royal College of Music, London (1937-1940). In 1936 he won the Percy Grainger Prize with his composition 'Forest' which was written on the site of the Christchurch Town Hall. 'Forest' was inspired by a holiday in Peel Forest, South Canterbury.

During the period 1941 - 1950 he lived in Christchurch, in a dwelling on the present site of the Christchurch Town Hall and it was here that he completed a number of compositions, including 'Landfall in Unknown Seas', 'Allegro' and 'Diversions' for strings, 'Sonatina No.1', 'Four Preludes' and 'Chaconne' for piano, 'A Song of Islands' and 'Symphony No.1' for orchestra.

In 1950 Mr Lilburn taught full time at Victoria University, Wellington and founded the electronic music studio there and in 1967 established the Wai-te-ata Press to publish New Zealand Music.

He retired in 1980 and four years later he founded the Lilburn Trust in support and promote New Zealand Music.

1988 saw him awarded the Order of New Zealand, before his eventual death in 2001.

On 2 March 2004 a plaque to commemorate the Christchurch home of Douglas Lilburn was unveiled outside the south-western door of the Christchurch Town Hall. The ceremony was attended by a number of prominent people from the music industry, friends and relatives, City Councillors and staff.

Recommendation: That the Council investigate the naming of the Christchurch Town Hall auditorium as the "Douglas Lilburn Auditorium", in recognition of Douglas Lilburn's work as New Zealand's leading contemporary composer, as well as living and working from his house on the present Christchurch Town Hall site.