

BRIEF NOTES on LORNE MUNROE

Born: Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

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Studied: Royal College of Music in London in 1937-39, then in Philadelphia at the Curtis Institute of Music, where he was a student of Felix Salmond, Gregor Piatigorsky and Orlando Cole.

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Awards: In 1949, he was the sole winner of the Naumburg award and made his recital debut in New York in November of that year.

1949-50 - tutti cello with the Cleveland Orchestra

1950-51- Principal cello Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra

1951 to 1964 - Principal cello Philadelphia Orchestra

(he had already performed Strauss' Don Quixote, 20 Jan 1951 in Carnegie Hall with the Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Pierre Monteux)

1964 to 1996 - Principal cello New York Philharmonic (invited by Leonard Bernstein). *He also regularly performed (100+ times !) as invited cello soloist with the orchestra.*

A Professor of Cello at the Juilliard School and at the Philadelphia Musical Academy (now 'University of the Arts').

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Lorne Munroe died in May 2020 at the age of 95, with the lasting legacy of one of the truly greatest orchestral cellists of the twentieth century

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Anecdotes:

* In 1945, he married violist Janée Munroe, with whom he had TEN sons and ONE daughter!

* When the pianist Daniel Barenboim recorded the Brahms's Second Piano Concerto with the NY Phil, Munroe featured in the gorgeous extended cello solo in the slow movement.

* His televised performance of the Barber concerto is considered one of the best performances ever of that concerto.

* When he retired in February 1996 after 31 years with the NY orchestra, as a 'going away' gesture Munroe was asked to perform the Schumann Cello Concerto

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AUDIO -

Don Quixote, Op. 35: Finale. Sehr ruhig // New York Philharmonic
Orchestra // Leonard Bernstein // Lorne Munroe

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O0-SXJVi4ic&feature=emb_logo

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