

Ernest N. Glover

Biography

Born in Perth, Australia into a Salvation Army family which moved to the Caribbean and then England just before World War I, he went to live in Canada with aunts where his skill on trombone advanced. He became trombone soloist of the Imperial Concert Band of Toronto where he came to the attention of Herbert Clarke who was then conductor of the Anglo-Canadian Band in Toronto. After being soloist with that band, he moved to Flint, Michigan for a time and then onto Cincinnati where he was assistant conductor, manager, and trombone soloist with the famous Armco Band of Middletown, Ohio led by Frank Simon. They broadcast over WLW radio to a national audience on the NBC network. This band worked extensively until about 1940 by which time Ernie had begun teaching at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. In 1942 he joined the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. He was a founding member of the American Bandmasters Association in 1930, and worked as an officer of that organization.

Though he had a lengthy and very accomplished playing career, his teaching career was perhaps more memorable. In the early 1940's, Betty Semple came to him to study. Though they later had an unsuccessful marriage, they maintained deep respect for one another and worked together until 1968. In the Cincinnati Symphony, Ernie was surrounded by his two most beloved students Tony Chipurn and Betty Glover. They both continued teaching at the conservatory after Ernie left. Both had lengthy outstanding careers with countless successful students.

Just after WWII Ernie began the school Brass Choir. This group was the epitome of excellence at the Conservatory. It performed around the USA and became renowned. Ernie was a respected and in demand leader with this ensemble. Though he also conducted the band and wind ensemble, it was the brass choir which brought fame to the school. He wrote many articles for American and Canadian publications about the Brass Choir as an ensemble and inspired other schools of music to include a brass choir in their training. He worked closely with Robert King to get works published and promoted. As part of this, with the assistance of then conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony, he established the Thor Johnson competition for compositions for

brass choir. Many well-known and often performed works came out of this competition. One of the first winners was a conservatory student, Verne Reynolds, who went on to become the principal horn of the Rochester Philharmonic and horn teacher at the Eastman School of Music. Countless accomplished brass students got their training in this ensemble. I consider it, along with the brass orchestral repertoire class taught by Betty Glover, to have been the most important part of my education, which prepared me for a career in a symphony orchestra. The ensemble continues today, conducted by Tim Northcutt, tuba teacher at the conservatory. During my time at the school, the Cincinnati Symphony trumpet section were graduates of this ensemble, Eugene Blee, Marie Speziale, Mike Denison, among others. I do not have anything approaching a complete list of all who continued on to successful careers after their time in Ernest Glover's Brass Choir at the Cincinnati Conservatory. His reach was very wide. In 1959, he was named "Mr. Brass Ensemble" by the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors.

Though not considered a composer, he did write a piece for Betty titled "Pan's Revels" which has been recorded by the current trombone teacher at the conservatory, Tim Anderson. He also composed a march "Golden Ideals" which he conducted with a band of 400 at the second convention of the American Bandmasters in Boston in 1931.

When he retired, Ernie told me he looked forward to traveling the country to visit his successful students. He said he thought that number was second only to Emory Remington. I have no way of knowing how true that would be but also have no reason to doubt it. His studio walls were covered with photographs from students documenting their accomplishments.