

BIO

Don Thompson O.C.

piano, bass, vibraphone, arrangements

Don Thompson is considered one of Canada's finest jazz musicians. Thompson has performed extensively with the top players in the jazz world, including the legendary John Handy Quintet with whom he recorded "Live at the Monterey Jazz Festival", Maynard Ferguson, Rob McConnell's Boss Brass, Moe Koffman etc. In 1974, Thompson toured Europe, Japan and North America as a member of guitarist Jim Hall's trio. In 1982, he joined George Shearing with whom he played major international festivals and concert halls, including highlight concerts at Carnegie Hall and Birdland. In 2000, he teamed up once again with Jim Hall for a concert at the Montreal Jazz Festival. Over the years, Thompson has maintained ongoing playing relationships with Kenny Wheeler, Joanne Brackeen, Fred Hersch, John Abercrombie and John Handy. Thompson's numerous distinctions include the Oscar Peterson Award from the Montreal Jazz Festival, several National Jazz Awards and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Art of Jazz. Don's significant contributions to Canadian culture were acknowledged when he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada, the highest honour bestowed by the Canadian government. In 2008, Don won his third Juno Award for his CD "Ask Me Later". Don appears on all of Diana Panton's albums.