

Portia White

A contralto known for becoming the first black Canadian concert singer to achieve international acclaim.

Source: <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/portia-white-emc>

Portia May White, contralto, teacher (born 24 June 1911 in Truro, NS; died 13 February 1968 in Toronto, ON). Portia White was the first Black Canadian concert singer to win international acclaim. She was considered one of the best classical singers of the 20th century. Her voice was described by one critic as “a gift from heaven.” She was often compared to the celebrated African American contralto Marian Anderson. The Nova Scotia Talent Trust was established in 1944 specifically to enable White to concentrate on her professional career. She was named a “person of national historic significance” by the Government of Canada in 1995.

To learn more:

https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FTheCanadianEncyclopedia%2Fposts%2F10159896389189553&show_text=true&width=500



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Oscar Peterson

Eight time Grammy award winning legendary jazz pianist.

Source: Canadian Encyclopedia <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/oscar-peterson>

Oscar Emmanuel Peterson, [CC](#), [CQ](#), [OOnt](#), jazz pianist, composer, educator (born 15 August 1925 in [Montréal, QC](#); died 23 December 2007 in [Mississauga, ON](#)). Oscar Peterson is one of Canada's most honoured musicians. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest [jazz](#) pianists of all time. He was renowned for his remarkable speed and dexterity, meticulous and ornate technique, and dazzling, swinging style. He earned the nicknames "the brown bomber of boogie-woogie" and "master of swing." A prolific recording artist, he typically released several albums a year from the 1950s until his death. He also appeared on more than 200 albums by other artists, including Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Billie Holiday and Louis Armstrong, who called him "the man with four hands." His sensitivity in these supporting roles, as well as his acclaimed [compositions](#) such as *Canadiana Suite* and "Hymn to Freedom," was overshadowed by his stunning virtuosity as a soloist. Also a noted jazz educator and advocate for racial equality, Peterson won a [Juno Award](#) and eight Grammy Awards, including one for lifetime achievement. The first recipient of the [Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement](#), he was inducted into the [Canadian Music Hall of Fame](#) and the International Jazz Hall of Fame. He was also made an Officer and then Companion of the [Order of Canada](#), and an Officer in the Order of Arts and Letters in France, among many other honours.



Dr. Eugenia Duodu

CEO of Visions of Science network for learning, who is committed to empowering low income communities through the STEM program.

Source: <https://www.eugeniaduodu.com/>

Eugenia Duodu is the CEO of Visions of Science Network for Learning, a charitable organization that empowers youth from low-income communities through meaningful engagement in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

She devotes her time to community and global outreach initiatives and participates in various boards, organizations, and councils. She is an advocate for education and creating equitable opportunities for youth to achieve their full potential.

Eugenia Duodu holds both an HB.Sc. in Chemistry and Biology and a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Toronto.



Andre De Grasse

Canadian sprinter, 7-time Olympic medalist and now gold medalist in the 200 m.

Source: <https://olympic.ca/team-canada/andre-de-grasse/>

Andre De Grasse has won six Olympic medals in his first two Olympic Games, reaching the podium in every event in which he has competed to become Canada's most decorated male Olympic medallist and tying for second on the country's all-time list.



De Grasse first made headlines across Canada and the United States when he won the 100m and 200m in a span of 45 minutes at the NCAA Championships in June 2015. He had blistering fast times in both, running 9.75 seconds in the 100m and 19.58 seconds in the 200m, although they were wind-aided and didn't count towards any official rankings or records.

De Grasse made history at Rio 2016 when he became the first Canadian athlete to win Olympic medals in all three sprint events.

At Tokyo 2020, De Grasse won gold in the 200m while lowering the national record to 19.62 seconds in the final. It was Canada's first Olympic gold in any track event since 1996. Just the day before he had dropped the national record to 19.73 seconds to be the fastest man in the 200m semifinals.

