

David Rose to Head Judges for Young Artists Competition

This year marks the start of the annual ATOS Young Artist Competition, and to head the panel of judges we are honored to have the internationally known composer/conductor/arranger, David Rose.

Rose has been a professional musician for over 40 years, and his list of accomplishments is indeed impressive. His most recent project was composing and conducting the music for the first 26 episodes of the *Highway to Heaven* TV series.

Born in London, David Rose began piano studies at the age of seven. His career began when he was 16 and Ted Fiorito engaged him as the pianist for his dance band. While holding this job he studied at the Chicago College of Music. At 19 he became the stand-by pianist for NBC radio in Chicago and began arranging for the *Carnation Hour*.

After moving to Hollywood he worked for the Mutual Broadcasting System, where he formed the David Rose Orchestra and did a program called *California Melodies*. As Mutual had no music library, he had to arrange every number for the twice-weekly program.

"I did so many arrangements of other tunes that I decided to try some of my own," he says. "The very first thing I wrote I called 'Monotony for Strings' and we played it on one of the shows. That evening I had a dinner date with Harold Arlen and his wife, who had listened to the program, and she thought it was a happy tune and should have a happy title, suggesting 'Holiday for Strings.'"

Rose stayed with Mutual until 1942, when he went into the armed forces and was assigned to the motion picture unit, doing music for training films. Moss Hart saw several of them and invited Rose to do the Army show

Winged Victory for him. After his discharge he went back to radio with another show of his own.

He began his 23-year association as conductor with Red Skelton in 1947, and was soon similarly involved with the Hallmark, Jack Benny, Bob Hope and Fred Astaire shows. Rose was associated with the *Bonanza* TV series for 14 years, did 22 programs for *High Chaparral* and ten years with the *Little House on the Prairie* series. In 1961 he became a musical director for MGM, scoring films for many of that studio's stars.

In addition to all his film and TV work, Rose has conducted a number of symphony orchestras in this country, as well as in Copenhagen, London, Paris, Hamburg, Berlin and Rome. He also writes classical music

and his *Concerto for Flute and Orchestra* was premiered by the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and has been played by the Boston Pops.

Rose's hobby is his collection of scale-model railways which are steam operated and haul passengers on tracks around his two-acre grounds in Sherman Oaks. He has perhaps the largest such private collection in the country, 14 locomotives in all, which are neatly housed in their own barn. His favorite is the 1/8th-scale model of The Royal Scot. In addition, he has a collection of over 200 working miniature steam engines, an interest which began in his childhood when he was presented with a 79-cent engine by his father. He also has an antique but functional passenger-carrying steamboat at Newport Beach. □

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