



**GOVERNOR GENERAL'S  
PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS FOUNDATION  
FONDATION DES PRIX DU GOUVERNEUR GÉNÉRAL  
POUR LES ARTS DU SPECTACLE**

## Gordon Lightfoot (1938-2023)

Canadian music icon Gordon Lightfoot has died at the age of 84. Mr. Lightfoot received a Governor General's Performing Arts Award in 1997. For decades, he chronicled the inner and outer details of the world in which he lived, consistently mirroring back to his audience the feelings and ideas he observed about the world.

In the 2019 documentary *Gordon Lightfoot: If You Could Read My Mind*, Geddy Lee, a GGPA laureate in 2012 with the members of Rush, said "he is our poet laureate, he is our iconic singer-songwriter." Some of his best-known works include *The Canadian Railroad Trilogy*, *If You Could Read My Mind*, *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald* and *Sundown*. His songs are timeless expressions of the Canadian experience that have been covered by countless artists.

Gordon Lightfoot was one of Canada's greatest singer-songwriters. He rose to fame in the 1960s and went on to win 16 Juno Awards. He was inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame, the Canadian Music Hall of Fame and the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame. He was a Companion of the Order of Canada.

Mr. Lightfoot will forever be remembered as a Canadian legend. We send our deepest condolences to his family, friends and fans all over the world.

A statement from the National Arts Centre:

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Gordon Lightfoot, Canada's most legendary singer-songwriter. We will fly our NAC flag at half mast in his memory. Gordon's music reflected the mood and spirit of a generation, and became the soundtrack of our country. His first performance at the NAC was on June 8, 1969 as part of the festival that marked the official opening of the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. He graced our stages many times until his last show in Southam Hall in November 2018, to a crowd of longtime fans. We send our sincere condolences to his family, his friends, and his many fans.

