



Interviewed: John Brotman  
Oral History Clip Title: A Mandate for the Whole Country  
Theme: Contribution to Canada  
Interviewer: Gail Freeman  
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(John)

The part of the Canada Council that I worked for was called the Touring Office of the Canada Council, so we had a mandate for the whole country. And my job specifically was, create music in every part of the country that you can, and find audiences, too. It was a terrific mandate, and there were plenty of resources at that time, so I had a ball.

(Interviewer)

So, what brought you to Toronto?

(John)

So, from there, I stayed there for about five years, and then I got offered a job with *Jeunesses Musicales Canada (JMC)*, which is based in Montreal and they wanted to expand into Ontario. *Jeunesses Musicales* is youth in music in Canada and their mandate is to bring music groups, young Canadian music groups into every town, in this case, Ontario. And what we did is audition young musicians and had a whole lot of programs, which I'd already started at the Canada Council. I began to work at the CBC in Halifax and in Alberta and through that kind of connection, myself and CBC people, we chose young musicians who would kind of benefit from the Canada Council programs and then we would tour them around Alberta, B.C., Saskatchewan, the maritime provinces. So, I was given that as a mandate when I joined Youth and Music (*Jeunesses Musicales*). I lasted there for about a year or two and that didn't work out really well. So, from there I then joined the Ontario Arts Council, where I remained ever since because I joined there as a music officer and rose up through the ranks and ended up the director of the Ontario Arts Council.

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