



Deutsche Gesellschaft für Flöte e.V.

Hochschule  
FÜR MUSIK  
Freiburg

# Flöten Festival Freiburg

29. September bis 1. Oktober 2023  
Hochschule für Musik Freiburg

Flute Update



## Robert Aitken

World-renowned Canadian flutist, composer and conductor Robert Aitken has maintained a busy musical career, taking him to virtually every corner of the globe. To quote him: “How did I do it?” Recent highlights include acting as Chair of the Jury of the newly-founded Moyses International Flute Competition in Sofia, Bulgaria (2023), his celebratory Pieces for Bob concert/book launch in Longboat Hall (2022) plus NMC Aulos online broadcast concerts from Koerner Hall with daughter Dianne Aitken (2021).

Among the many honours Mr. Aitken has received are the Order of Canada, the Chevalier de L'Ordre des Arts et Lettres (France), the prestigious Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Flute Association (USA). In 2004, he retired as Professor für Flöte at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg, Germany, a position he held for 16 years.

Aitken has more than 70 recordings to his credit (BIS, Naxos, CBC, CBS-Sony, Denon) and such notables as John Cage, George Crumb, Elliott Carter, Toru Takemitsu, R. Murray Schafer and Gilles Tremblay have dedicated works to him. Aitken, himself an active composer, has published works with Universal, Salabert, Ricordi, and Peer Music and is Composer Emeritus at LAMP (Lunenburg Academy of Music Performance).

In 1970, having previously served as principal flute for both the Vancouver (at age 19) and Toronto Symphony Orchestras, Aitken embarked on a solo career. Coincidentally, 1970 was also the year The Lyric Arts Trio (with pianist/wife Marion Ross and soprano Mary Morrison) performed at Expo '70 in Japan.

Aitken and harpsichordist Greta Kraus also formed an important musical bond.

Robert Aitken was Director of the Winter Program, Banff Centre for Fine Arts, founder/artistic director of Music Today, Music at Shawnigan and co-founder, with Norma Beecroft, of New Music Concerts which he directed from 1971-2021.

His teachers have included Nicholas Fiore, Marcel Moyse, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Severino Gazzeloni, André Jaunet and Hubert Barwahser.