

CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

Council: June 22, 2022

MOVED BY MAYOR F. EISENBERGER.....

Naming of the Great Hall of First Ontario Concert Hall after Boris Brott

WHEREAS, Boris Brott was artistic director and conductor of the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra from 1969-1990, taking it from an amateur ensemble to a professional one with a popular subscription season and global recognition;

WHEREAS, Boris Brott led the launch of the orchestra's music education programs, paving the way to performing in classrooms and school auditoriums across the region. Many Hamiltonians will cite one of his concerts as their first experience with orchestral music. He taught and conducted many of our current HPO musicians and audience members through HPO education programs as well as through the Brott Music Festival and National Academy Orchestra;

WHEREAS, Boris Brott has a direct connection to the Great Hall as a collaborator on the design of the Hall itself;

WHEREAS, First Ontario Credit Union, current holder of naming rights for the facility are not only very much in support of this initiative, but have been instrumental in working with all parties involved to bring this to fruition;

WHEREAS, Boris Brott was later founder and artistic director of the National Academy Orchestra of Canada and Brott Music Festival, both based in Hamilton, where he lived for many years. He was the former principal conductor for youth and family programs at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, and the New West Symphony Orchestra in Los Angeles in the mid-1990s;

WHEREAS, Boris Brott brought high quality classical music to as wide a public as possible was Brott's goal, never more so than since he became conductor and artistic director of the Orchestre Classique de Montréal, previously the McGill Chamber Orchestra, which his parents Alexander and Lotte Brott, both acclaimed musicians, founded in 1939;

WHEREAS, Boris Brott was not only a giant of the classical music world, he was also a giant for promoting and building Hamilton and his efforts over the decades helped lift our community to new heights; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the public life and well-being of the City of Hamilton through the naming of municipal facilities and properties;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff be directed to facilitate and execute the naming of the Great Hall of First Ontario Concert Hall in honour and recognition of Boris Brott for his contribution to the Hall itself and the enormous contribution Boris made to the greater Hamilton community arts and culture legacy that has been recognized on a global scale;
- (b) That an interior commemorative plaque be installed and an exterior sign be added to the existing exterior First Ontario Concert Hall sign with the wording “The Great Hall – Boris Brott”; and
- (c) That costs of the installations be funded by First Ontario Credit Union and Oak View Group (OVG) / *Hamilton* Urban Precinct Entertainment Group LP (*HUPEG*).