

Minnesota Music Hall of Fame

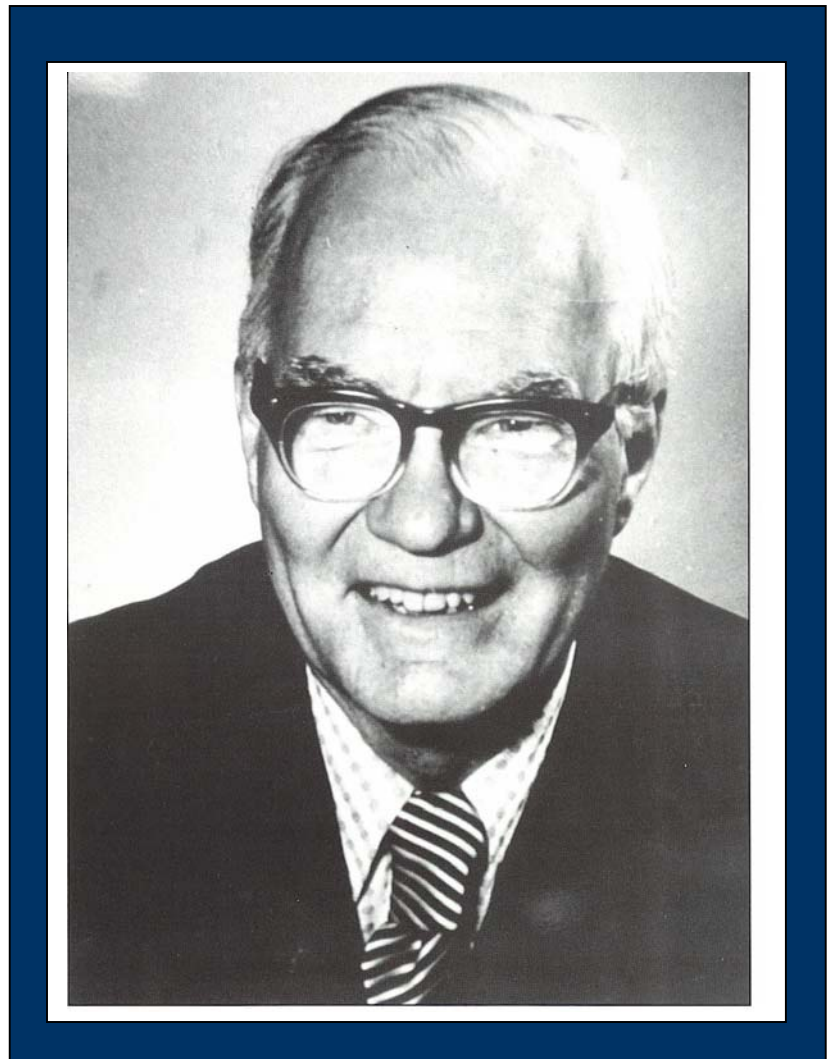
Inductee



James “Red” McLeod (1912 – 2007) Inducted in 1991

This musician, well known arranger and songwriter, was born in Virginia. He started on violin and switched to clarinet and sax. While in high school he started writing arrangements for the city bands. At the University of Minnesota, he wrote arrangements for the U of M band. He earned his Masters Degree and supported himself by playing and arranging music on campus. In 1933 Red was chosen to write the arrangement when the U of M band played with Eugene Ormandy and the Minnesota Orchestra. He was paid well and decided to make arranging his life's work. He worked as staff arranger for KSTP for ten years and arranged the Aquatennial Follies from 1941 to 1963 and Dorothy Lewis Ice Shows.

He was the Golden Strings at the Radison Hotel and wrote football shows for University bands from coast to coast. He was entertainment director for the Minnesota Vikings for 25 years. In 1937 he started arranging for the Whoopee John Band and wrote the arrangements for Lawrence Welk's first published, "The Champaign Polka" Currently he is writing arrangements mostly for publication. The most widely used is a series of books on Strolling Strings. They are used through-out the world.



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