

Peel Biog.

May 30, 79 MT

NEEL, Boyd (Dr)



Dr. Neel: Leader of the band

THE TIMES

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Another honor for Boyd Neel

A former music director and conductor of the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra will be presented with an honorary degree by the University of Toronto during graduation ceremonies at Convocation Hall next month.

Dr. Boyd Neel, a conductor of the local symphony from 1971 to 1976, will receive the degree when 600 Erindale College graduates receive their degrees and diplomas June 20.

"Dr. Neel's contributions to music in

Canada have enriched the lives of all who have been among his students and audiences," said Erindale principal Paul Fox.

Neel, born in England in 1905 left a successful career as a surgeon at St. George's Hospital in London to devote himself to music.

In 1932 he formed the 18-member Boyd Neel String Orchestra, which pioneered a great revival of interest in baroque music, creating a library of over 100 recordings.

Referred to as "the Toscanini of the chamber

orchestra," Neel toured the world with his orchestra until 1953, when he accepted a post as Dean of the Royal Conservatory of Music at U of T.

While Dean of the Conservatory, Neel designed the Edward Johnston Music Building at U of T and was responsible for the erection of other new buildings and facilities at the Faculty of Music and the Opera School.