



Jazz pianist Oscar Peterson accepts Mississauga's first Musician of the Year award from chairman Rev. John Ambrose (left) of the Mississauga Music Council as Mayor Hazel McCallion looks on. Award was presented at gala luncheon Sunday. (Staff photo by Rob Beintema)

Music maker of the year

International recording artist Oscar Peterson, praised as the "outstanding jazz pianist in the world" became the first recipient of Mississauga's Musician of the Year award.

The award was presented to the 57-year-old pianist by the Mississauga Music Council at a gala luncheon Sunday at the Carvery Restaurant.

"By establishing this award, you have done something that, I hope, will be a model for other communities to follow," said Walter Pitman, executive director of the Ontario Arts Council. "You are honoring a man who has made a tremendous contribution."

Arnold Edinborough, president of the Council for Business and the Arts in Canada, told the gathering, "Oscar Peterson, together with (classical pianist) Glenn Gould

stand out as the greatest Canadian pianists of the century."

In his speech Rev. John Ambrose, chairman of the Mississauga Music Council, said that it was an easy matter to choose Peterson for this award. "His achievements stand out," he said.

Montreal-born Peterson, who has received accolades far and wide, including the Order of Canada, has lived in Mississauga since 1973.

"Although I do appear and, with the help of God, will continue to appear all over the world, I do consider this a special place," said Peterson in his acceptance speech.

"This award will always have a special meaning for me."