

CFMTA Interview:

I was born in Stratford, Ontario in 1950 and grew up on a farm near there. My parents enjoyed music. Dad learned to play the violin by himself, and mom played a few chords on the piano by ear, but because they had lived through the Depression, they were not financially able to take music lessons. Consequently, they wanted to give me and my younger sister and brother the opportunity to learn piano, so we started lessons with a local piano teacher. I loved playing the piano right from the start and spent hours learning new pieces and figuring things out. My dad played old-time fiddle music at family and community events and I soon learned from mom a few chords so that I could accompany him. My childhood years were very important in my musical development. I was part of an extended family that enjoyed singing together, and I was part of a church community where I was able to participate in choirs and as a pianist.