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ROY THOMSON HALL/ TORONTO, ONTARIO / PHOTOGRAPHIC TIMELINE

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FEEDBACK

Roy Thomson Hall is a concert hall located at 60 Simcoe Street in [Toronto, Ontario](#). It is the home of the [Toronto Symphony Orchestra](#). Opened in 1982, its circular architectural design exhibits a sloping and curvilinear glass exterior. It was designed by Canadian architects [Arthur Erickson](#) and Mathers and Haldenby. The hall seats 2630 and features a

pipe organ built by Canadian organ builders [Gabriel Kney](#) of [London, Ontario](#).

The hall was formerly known as The New [Massey Hall](#) during its construction and pre-construction phase. It acquired its official name on January 14, 1982, as thanks to the family of [Roy Thomson](#) (first Lord Thomson of Fleet and founder of the publishing empire [Thomson Corporation](#)), who had donated \$4.5 million (Canadian dollars) to complete the fund-raising efforts for the new hall.[1]

The hall was renovated over a period of six months in 2002, after years of complaints from musicians about the quality of its acoustics.[2]

The hall is one of the main venues used by the [Toronto International Film Festival](#), with many gala screenings held there each year. The concert hall was used in scenes of the film *[X-Men](#)*.

Filmmaker Jeffery Klassen's 2005 film, *Toronto Architecture*, interviews Arthur Erickson about the structure. Erickson talks of the point of the grey structure being that of a container which people were to fill up with their own decorations. The pond was originally designed to be used as a [skating rink](#) in the winter. The building was influenced by Erickson's journeys in [Japan](#) and his relationship with the North American Aboriginals.

[Peter Oundjian](#) conducts [Toronto Symphony Orchestra](#), Roy Thomson Hall, June 2014
The hall was the venue of the [state funeral](#) of federal [Leader of the Official Opposition](#) and [NDP](#) leader [Jack Layton](#) on August 27, 2011.

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