

Herman Lindars (1899-1981)

Composer, Conductor, Industrialist & Inventor

Lindars unusual diversity of talent brought him distinction as an orchestral conductor, often guesting with the Halle, and as a composer of high order, combined with a long career in industry and significant inventions, including vital mechanisms on the Jodrell Bank telescope.



At the age of five he began to learn the violin. At twelve he was appointed deputy organist at St Mary's, the Minster Church of Reading. He became a fellow pupil of Barbieroli, Pougnet and Beard at the Royal Academy of Music, gaining the Threlfall Scholarship for Organ and the Goring Thomas Scholarship for composition. After the Academy he studied conducting with Albert Coates and worked with him for some years in opera productions on the continent.

Lindars distinguished himself as pianist, conductor and composer. He conducted his coronation work "*Dedication*" before her Majesty the Queen at the Royal Albert Hall. In 1946 he became Director and Conductor of the Sheffield Philharmonic Orchestra with which he was a pioneer of new and difficult works, giving, for instance, the first performance in English of Honegger's "*Christmas Cantata*" and introducing Sheffield and Manchester to Stravinsky's "*Rite of Spring*" with the Royal Philharmonic.

Alongside these musical accomplishments he was a scientist of considerable renown and many devices of the space age bear his name as inventor. As an industrialist, he developed a hugely successful business as a railway contractor, having bought out the engineering firm that he joined after leaving the Royal Academy.

The Herman Lindars Music Awards at Reading School were established through the beneficence of Lady Beecham and the Sir Thomas Beecham Trust to encourage the pursuit of excellence in music.