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Name: Robert Lawson Craft

Years: 1923- Present

Residence: Born in Kingston, NY.

Brief Biography: Robert Lawson Craft is a composer and conductor of world renowned quality.

Best known for his friendship and influence of Igor Stravinsky, he in his own right conducted many of the major bands in the United States including New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, and Chicago Symphony. After spending his childhood in Kingston, he attended the Military Academy prep school in Cornwall-on-Hudson. He then continued his studies at Juilliard, where he received his B.A. in 1946. By 1947 he was conducting the New York Brass and Woodwind Ensemble. In 1948, Craft befriended Stravinsky in Hollywood where they began to extensively influence one another. Craft, played an important role in convincing Stravinsky to adopt the 12-tone method of composition, monumentally changed the way Stravinsky composed music. He also collaborated with Stravinsky on *Conversations with Igor Stravinsky* (N.Y., 1959); *Memories and Commentaries* (N.Y., 1960); *Expositions and Developments* (N.Y., 1962);

Dialogues and a Diary (N.Y., 1963); *Themes and Episodes* (N.Y., 1967); *Retrospections and Conclusions* (N.Y., 1969). To date he is still an active composer, writer, and conductor.

Major Achievements: Craft received the Grand Prix du Disque twice, as well as the Edison Prize for recordings of works by Varese and Stravinsky.

For More Information: Baker's Biographical Dictionary of 20th Century Classical Musicians (1997), [An Improbable Life: Memoirs \(2002\)](#)

References: <http://www.robertcraft.net/bio/index.html>,

<http://oxfordreference.com.online.library.marist.edu/views/ENTRY.html?entry=t76.e2251&srn=1&ssid=110256930#FIRSTHIT>,