

## GIVING CANADA TO THE U.S.

The Free Trade Agreement will undoubtedly have an effect on the music industry. But how? Our boy Rod thinks he has the answer.

As I am sure all of you know (or at least most of you), there is a federal election coming up. And I also assume that a good number of you have heard of the Free Trade Agreement (if you haven't, it has to do with giving Canada to the U.S.). Aside from all of the regular garbage our political leaders go on about is a side of the agreement that affects ENTERTAINMENT; musicians are excluded from the Free Trade Agreement (FTA). A majority of nobodys got together and protested so loudly that they were finally cut from the FTA. Why you ask? To save our musical culture so they say!

Now don't get me wrong - I'd be the first to tip my hat to Canadian musicians, but how can they continue to produce good quality material if they don't have access to the American market? "Oh

sure!" The true Canadian patriot stands up and mumbles, "But, the Canadians will still buy their stuff! Metallica, man! (Duh!)."

Being realistic, if our music does well south of the border, then our musicians can afford to continue production.

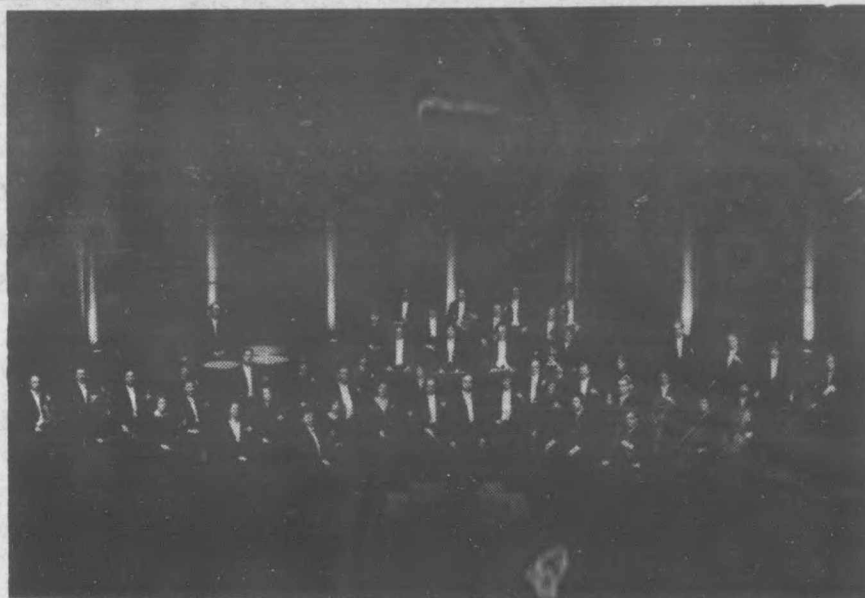
It has always been difficult for Canadians to enter the U.S. music market, and the FTA doesn't help a bit. Like others from the service industry (ie. engineers, consultants, journalists), musicians have to get a temporary work permit from the U.S. Immigration Department in order to work in the States. There is much time-consuming paperwork which often ends in failure. Most professionals are permitted to cross the border in order to work temporarily - under the FTA musicians are denied this benefit. In order for an employer to bring in an

American band, a routine form must be filled out for the Ministry of Employment and Immigration. Conversely, Canadians trying to get a gig in the U.S. must do paperwork and wait at least 30 days for a decision.

One third of the performers at Canadian folk festivals are American, and yet Canadians can't work in America for fear of going to jail!

If the FTA allowed music into the deal, both sides would benefit from an open border. The two countries would learn from each other. I'm not saying that the FTA is good or bad (wishy-washy! - Ed.), I'm just pointing out a flaw in its working in case it is passed. (source: Small Business July/Aug 1988)

**Rod the Bod**



The N.A.C. Orchestra of Ottawa. This week's opponents for the UNB Ironmen.

### ORCHESTRA

"The National Arts Centre Orchestra, under the baton of the dynamic Gabriel Chmura, is consistently praised as one of the world's great music ensembles, and we are indeed fortunate that the soloist will be a remarkable talent--Edmonton-born cellist Shauna Rolston," said Allen Selby, president of the Council of the Arts, Fredericton, which operates the ONSTAGE arts series.

"Our ONSTAGE performance is already sold out to ONSTAGE subscribers. On the program will be Samuel Barber's Adagio for Strings, Camille Saint-Saens's Cello Concerto No. 1, Op. 33 in A Minor (performed by Shauna Rolston), Francois Morel's Esquisse pour orchestre, and Felix Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony (No. 4, Op. 90, A Major).

Mendelssohn will also be offered during the Nov. 24 performance when the orchestra plays his Overture, The Fair Melusina, Op. 32. Shauna Rolston will be featured in Piotr Tchaikovsky's Variations on a Rococo Theme, Op. 33. Also on the program will be Capriccio by Peter Paul Koprowski and W.A. Mozart's Symphony No. 40, K. 550 in G Minor.

Tickets for the Nov. 24 performance will go on sale Nov. 7 at Westminster Books, Fredericton; Murray's Book Nook, Ormocto Mall; Leisure Services, Ormocto, and at the door the night of the concert. Prices are \$6 for students, \$12 for seniors and \$20 for adults.

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