



Susan Hirst (right) meeting Mrs Teresa Escoda-Roxas, President of the Cultural Centre of the Philippines, during a luncheon hosted by Ambassador Andre S. Simard (far left)

Soprano Represents Canada at Bamboo Organ Festival

■ Susan Hirst, a mezzo-soprano from Canada, was a featured artist at the International Bamboo Organ Festival held in Manila on January 31-February 17. She performed in the presentations of J.S. Bach's Mass in B Minor. Ms Hirst interpreted the two-part series of Bach's acclaimed composition with organist Guy Bovet, the Las Pinas Boys Choir, the Manila Chamber Orchestra and a host of other international artistes.

The Bamboo Organ Festival is built around a 16th-century bamboo organ located in an old church in a Manila suburb. This unique, all-bamboo instrument had fallen into disrepair for many years before it was fully restored in 1975. Since then it continues to astonish music lovers to this day with its rich and haunting tones. And the annual festival of baroque music features performance by renowned artistes from all over the world.

Ms Hirst's visit was sponsored by the Canadian Government, the International Bamboo Organ Festival and Northwest Airlines. In between performances at the Festival, she held a Master Class with voice students at the University of Santo Tomas' Conservatory of Music and met with her counterparts and other personalities in the Philippine music scene.

CANADIAN ARTIST EXHIBITS IN JAKARTA

■ Canadian artist Ken Pattern held an exhibiton of his works at Erasmus Huis in Jakarta from January 25 to February 3. The exhibition was funded by the Government of Canada with organizational support provided by the Canadian Embassy in Jakarta.

The Canadian Ambassador to Indonesia, Ingrid Hall, hosted an opening night gala reception which was attended by over 400 invited guests. Erasmus Huis reported that this was the largest turnout to inaugurate an art exhibition in its history. Over 2,000 people viewed the exhibition during its run, and

many more read reviews in Indonesian newspapers and saw a 10-minute special on the artist and his works over Indonesian television.

Indonesian audiences were especially fond of Mr Pattern's representational scenes of the Rocky Mountains, as well as his surrealist series entitled "Iceberg in Paradise", which metaphorically depicts the artist's first impressions of adapting to the tropical climate of Indonesia. Also on display were selections from his lithographs and pen and ink drawings.

Ken Pattern and Ambassador Hall at opening night of his one-man exhibition



The Judith Marcuse Dance Company

Dance Company Debuts in Singapore

■ The Judith Marcuse Dance Company, from Vancouver, British Columbia, made its Asian debut in Singapore on December 5-6. They were in the island state to participate in the Singapore Dance Festival.

The dance company was easily the highlight of the festival, performing to near capacity houses. According to a major newspaper in Singapore, "they succeeded easily in bridging the gap between entertainment and art." Audience reaction to Marcuse's modern choreography was positive and enthusiastic.

The opening night was attended by the Singapore Minister of Trade and Industry, Brigadier-General Lee Hsien Loong, and former Canadian Minister of International Trade, Mr James Kelleher, who was in Singapore on private business.

