

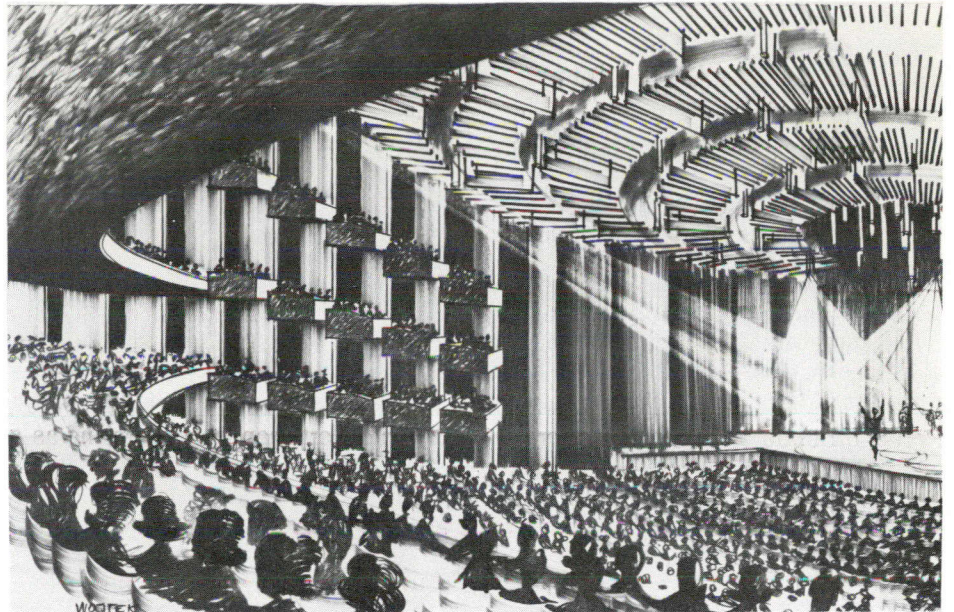
**Arts Centre – a booming season**

From September 1, 1973, when the Red Army Chorus sang to a sold-out house, until the curtain comes down in June on the final performance of the Bolshoi Ballet, the National Arts Centre will have had more performances and greater attendance than in any previous season. The month of March alone featured 63 performances, excluding student matinees and rentals, with nearly 40 per cent of the shows sold out in advance.

The Centre has a mandate to mix its programming content among Canadian performers, international attractions and “in-house” creative productions, and to present new talent. The 1973/74 season has so far been one in which this balance has been maintained successfully, according to the healthy box office figures.

**Music**

The music department opened its season with the inauguration of the Flentrop organ, gift of the Dutch-Canadian community, with Albert De Klerk as guest soloist with the NAC Orchestra. Another highlight was the world première of *Elegy for Orchestra* by Tadeusz Baird, specially commissioned for the five-hundredth anniversary of Copernicus. Besides performances by the Leningrad Philharmonic, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and the Toronto Symphony, the NAC Orchestra gave concerts with a series of internationally-renowned soloists



*The 2,165-seat Opera House is the largest theatre of the three comprising the National Arts Centre, Ottawa. The stage is the largest in Canada though*

*the furthest seat in the house is only 114 feet away. Seating capacity is increased to 2,372 when the orchestra pit is not in use.*

and guest conductors, including pianist Vladimir Ashkenazy, who made his North American conducting *début* in Ottawa.

Recently returned from a highly successful second tour of Western Canada, the Orchestra also toured extensively in Ontario, and played three concerts in the United States, one of which was in Washington, D.C. During May the Orchestra will conclude its two regular series, with the final concert on May 16 with Mario Bernardi conducting Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9 in D*.

**Theatre**

The English theatre department has enjoyed a highly successful season both with its “classical” subscription series and its presentations of international theatre: Kathakali from India, the Black Theatre of Prague and comedienne Anna Russell. The season was off to a flying start with two productions that were both sold out: Shaw Festival's *You Never Can Tell* and the NAC Theatre Company's production of *Twelfth Night*. During March, the Royal Shakespeare Company from Britain pre-



*Among the productions seen at the National Arts Centre this season were Giselle, by the National Ballet of Canada, with Andrew Oxenham (left) and Daniel Capouch, and*



*Molière's Le Malade imaginaire, which was performed by La Comédie-Française of France, with Françoise Seigner and Jacques Charon, shown above.*