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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PERFORMING ARTS COMPANIES AND SOLOISTS

The Department of External Affairs announced today that, through its Bureau of International Cultural Relations, twenty performing arts organizations and artists have been accorded financial assistance to perform abroad. This assistance, awarded after the last two meetings of the Advisory Committee on Foreign Cultural Relations held on September 5 and November 14, 1979, amounts to approximately \$117,500 and covers, in most cases, the cost of international transportation. Financial assistance requiring Treasury Board approval was also recommended at these two meetings. The recipients and their projects will be announced at a later date.

Among the twenty recipients, involving theatre, dance, music and artists' managements are:

Coad Canada Puppets of Vancouver is the first foreign company to be invited by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington to participate in their Discover Theatre Series and will perform at least twice a day, five days a week from April 2 to 27, 1980. Following their month in Washington, Coad will perform in Atlanta, Georgia on May 2, 3 and 4 at the invitation of the Center for Puppetry Arts. Le Théâtre Sans Fil, a Montreal puppet company, will present the English version of their production Le Corbeau Blanc (The White Raven) at Showcase '80 - The National Showcase of Performing Arts for Young People, in Syracuse, New York