

# Festival Singers 'unique'

by D. Moulton

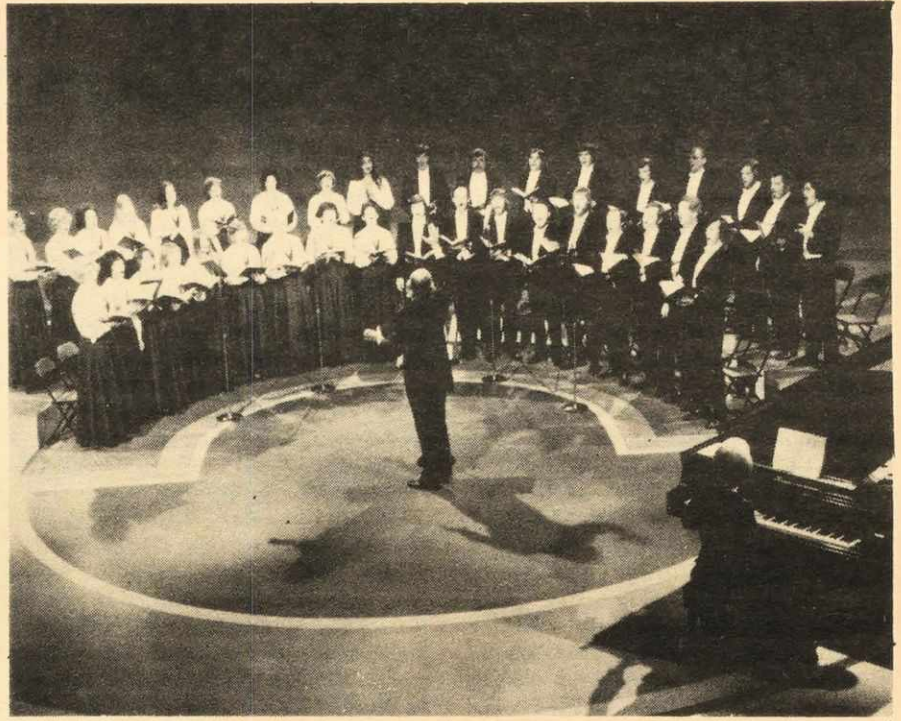
The Festival Singers are noted through out Canada for their unique style of music and the harmony prevailing in each song. On Tuesday night at the Arts Centre they varied somewhat from their usual repertoire and indulged in some classical music, to the delight of the audience. Prior to the first intermission- there was a selection from Bach, performed in German, and two Latin songs, one performed in Spanish, and one in English. Each language produced a new and different rhythm and individual variations on basic musical themes.

Elmer Iseler, the conductor has arranged the Festival Singers as a versatile, skilled, and highly entertaining group. In the later half of the performance one song contained a variety of bird note imitations. The group of 35 incorporated these sounds into their selection so effectively that it seemed like the real thing. Iseler used this technique quite frequently, and every time the music produced the scene the words depicted. The best example of this occurred during a

verse from Shakespeares' *The Tempest* where the audience was introduced to the musical definitions of the words "looming" and "still".

The second half of the concert was composed of lighter, more lilted, and faster paced music. One French Canadian folk song was highly reminiscent of a Quebec Winter Carnival tune. There was only one selection comparable to the music of Murray Schaffer, Canadian composer and originator of tunes designed specifically for the Festival Singers. This was the selection "Night:Morning" by Gyorgy Ligeti and its rendition has no twin in the musical/vocal field.

The Festival Singers of Canada consist of 19 women, 16 men, a pianist, Ruth Watson Henderson, and the conductor. Presently on tour across Canada, this internationally recognized group, had, unfortunately, only the one performance in Halifax. But the audience was receptive and satisfied. It was an evening few will forget and all were delighted by.



The Festival Singers of Canada, under the direction of Elmer Iseler.

# RCMP play 'Walt Disney'

by D. Moulton

Sunday evening at the Cohn I discovered that the R.C.M.P. are capable of doing more than giving speeding tickets and pestering young people like myself. They also play music and to the delight of the audience they play exceedingly well. According to Staff Sergeant Garth Hampson (vocalist for the group) the function of the band is to reach the public by communicating through music. The aim of the group is to expose the public to the human side of law enforcers.

There are 53 people in the band, including the musicians, the Master of Ceremonies (the vocalist), the conductor, two road managers, two arrangers, and a copier. Not only does the band perform the music of other musicians but members of the band write and arrange compositions which the group performs as well.

The first half of the performance started with a number entitled "Walt Disney Melody" arranged by Cst. Jim Seaman. Included in the melody was a favorite of everybody- "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious." Also included in this half were 3 songs from Fiddler on the Roof, some classical music, and another band member composition, "Latin Evergreens", a refreshing look at Latin American music. The concluding song for the set was a medley of Chicago tunes which the pianist played extremely

well especially the tune "Color My World".

The last half of the concert was just as diverse and enjoyable as the first. Here was to be heard variations on songs such as "Have You Never Been Mellow" (Olivia Newton John) and "Laughing in the Rain". Roger Whitackers "Last Farewell" was also performed along with a well known march tune "On the Quarterdeck" because the audience was sufficiently aroused by this time to be at its peak of reception. There were two band arrangements which involved audience participation in the form of guess work. The first of these was a combination of T.V. themes entitled "Bert and Ernie" from guess what? The second highlight and last song of the concert was a medley of country and western tunes- "A Visit to Nashville", arranged with a new and different twist.

The band's major appeal lay in its obvious enjoyment performing. Hand clapping, humming along and singing to the songs became an expected part of the audience reaction, and it was a new and refreshing experience to see a band mingle with an eager audience. The questions put to them were happily answered and appreciated. It was a unique experience to see a group establish a rapport with the audience offstage as well as on stage.

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