

News of the arts

Toronto Symphony on tour in China and Japan

The Toronto Symphony left Canada on January 21 for a three-week tour of the People's Republic of China and Japan.

The 98-member group, with music director Andrew Davis, contralto Maureen Forrester and pianist Louis Lortie, will perform in Peking on January 30, 31 and February 1, in Shanghai on February 5 and 6 and in Canton on February 7 and 8. Before their arrival in China, the Toronto Symphony will give concerts in Tokyo on January 28 and 29.

The orchestra's performances in China constitute the reciprocal part of a Canada/China cultural exchange which brought the Shanghai Ballet to appreciative audiences in Canada last May. Although the Toronto Symphony will be the first major Canadian professional orchestra to visit the People's Republic, the way was opened for musical exchanges last March, by a highly successful tour of China by the Canadian Brass, and in 1975 by The Men of the Deep choir from Cape Breton.

The program of works for the concerts includes pieces by Beethoven, Berlioz, Mahler and Tchaikowsky, and by Canadian composers François Morel and Sir Ernest MacMillan. Miss Forrester and Mr. Lortie will alternate as guest soloists, and the orchestra will be joined in Shanghai



Audrey Michaels

Maureen Forrester

by Chinese soprano Chu Feng Po, who appeared in Canada with the Shanghai Ballet company last spring.

The concerts in China will be presented in major cultural centres. In Tokyo, one concert will be played at the Bunka Kaikan hall, and the other at the hall of the Japanese national television network (NHK), where it will be recorded for broadcast.

A Canadian Broadcasting Corporation film crew under producer Norman Campbell, who will prepare a documentary to be seen in Canada in the spring, is accompanying the orchestra.

New Canadian operas

For the first time in the history of Canadian music, two new Canadian operas were given their world *premières* on the same night. The Co-Opera Theatre, in association with the Toronto Free Theatre, presented *Lady in the Night* by Norman Symonds and Hrant Alianak and *Enkidu* by Harry Somers and Martin Kinch, from December 7 to 11.

Julie Amato, widely known to Canadian audiences through her television show *Julie*, will make her operatic *début* in the blues opera *Lady in the Night*. The cast of *Enkidu* includes Glyn Evans, tenor, singing the title role, with Donald Bell, Giulio Kukurugya, James Anderson, Susan Gudgeon, and choreographer-actress Nancy Schriber completing the cast. Librettists Hrant Alianak and Martin Kinch will direct their own operas.

Enkidu is based on the epic of Gilgamesh, a tale of the degradation of the "natural" man Enkidu by King Gilgamesh. *Lady in the Night* is a blues opera in which Baby, a stripper, re-creates through a series of flashbacks her world, her life, and the betrayal which results in her killing her lover, Jimmy.

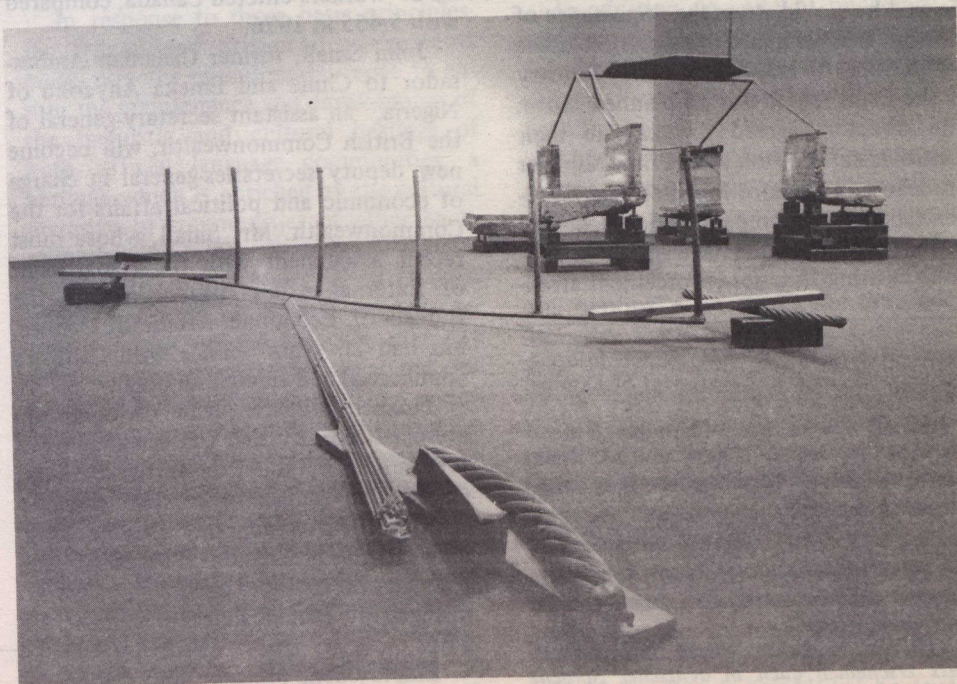
The two operas were commissioned by the Co-Opera Theatre, assisted by the Canada Council and the Ontario Arts Council.

Works of two Ontario artists off to international exhibition

Ron Martin, of London, Ontario, and Henry Saxe, of Tamworth, Ontario, have been chosen by the National Gallery of Canada to represent Canada in the *XXXVIII International Biennial Exhibition of Art*, in Venice, in early June.

For the first time, the paintings and sculptures by the selected artists will be exhibited in advance before reaching Italy. In response to a special invitation from the Center for Inter-American Relations in New York, the National Gallery will exhibit the nine paintings by Martin and the four sculptures by Saxe at the Centre from February 8 to March 26.

The exhibition, which will be made up of works from private and public collections in Canada, will include two works recently acquired by the National Gallery, Henry Saxe's *Sight-Site* and Ron Martin's *Lovedeath-Deathlove*.



Steel and concrete sculpture in several elements, *Sight-Site* by Henry Saxe.