

News of the arts

Canadian Brass records with RCA

The Canadian Brass, a Toronto-based ensemble which has toured the Soviet Union, China, Europe and the United States, has signed a three-year contract with RCA records in New York to cut three albums — two collections of tunes from the Thirties and Forties and one collection of classical baroque pieces.

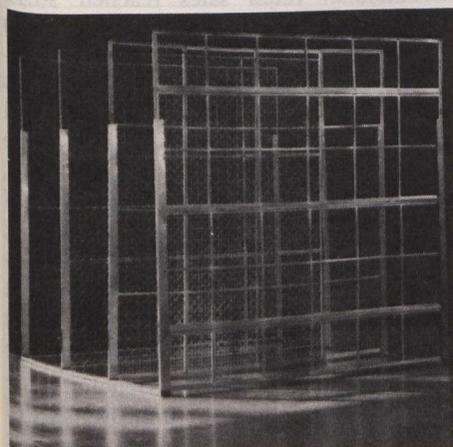
Trombonist Eugene Watts, quoted by *The Globe and Mail*, says: "The art of brass playing is yet to be fully defined. That's our real, long-range goal: to develop a brass chamber ensemble that can be compared with a fine string quartet — to set a standard that can hold for a while. There are a lot of very good brass players who get together to play as groups, but we're the first ever — and this is important — to have a set of instruments specially crafted for chamber ensemble playing."

The group also has plans to perform with the Minneapolis Orchestra in January and February and at New York Lincoln Centre's Alice Tully Hall on February 6.

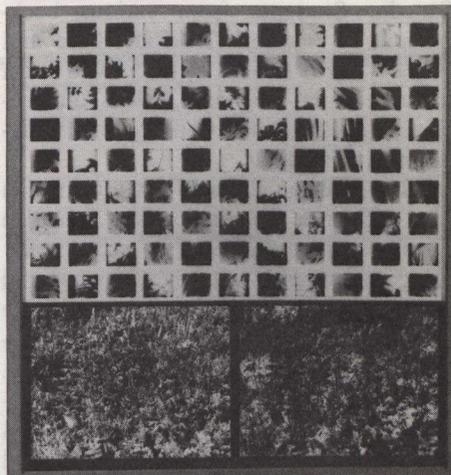
Michael Snow covers Europe

Michael Snow — artist, sculptor, filmmaker, musician and writer — has become the first Canadian to exhibit at France's new museum of modern art, the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, and the second Canadian (after Alfred Pellán in 1955) to exhibit at the Musée national d'art moderne.

First in France (until the end of January), his exhibition will travel to Switzerland (Lucerne), The Netherlands (Rotter-



Blind (1968). Painted steel sculpture.



Field (1973-1974). Black and white photographic prints glued on cardboard.

dam), and Germany (Bonn and Munich).

The exhibition opens in Paris on December 13, with 16 photographic works, eight films, three projected slide works and three sculptures. Snow's most recent international one-man exhibition was at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, in 1976.

The artist has represented Canada at three Edinburgh International Festivals (*Canada 101* in 1968, and the 1969 and 1975 Film Festivals); in 16 one-man shows in the United States (in New York and Minneapolis between 1964 and 1976); at the Venice Biennial (1970), and at the Mostra Internazionale del Nuova Cinema, Pesaro, Italy (film retrospective, 1972). He won Grand Prizes at two Belgian Festivals in 1967: at the Knokke-le-Zoute International Experimental Film Festival and at the Fourth International Experimental Film Festival in Brussels.

Mr. Snow's films have been shown at the Whitney Museum, New York in 1969, the Montreux Film Festival (Switzerland, 1974), the Cannes Film Festival (France, 1969 and 1970), the London Film Festival (England, 1973 and 1975) and *Documenta* (Kassel, Germany, 1977).

Canadian literature in Italy

Canada: Il Villaggio Della Terra (Canada: The Village of the Land) by Giovanna Capone, published by Patron Editors of Bologna, is a study of Canadian literature, the first in continental Europe and perhaps the whole of Europe. The author, Professor Giovanna Capone, chairman of the department of English literature at the University of Bologna, is contributing

towards the growing interest in Canadian literature in Italy.

Twenty-seven books by major English Canadian authors have already been translated and reviewed by the Italian press, among them *Il Medium e il Messaggio (The Medium is the Message)*, and Farley Mowat's *La Balena e la Furia (A Whale for the Killing)*. Another 12 translations are under way, including an anthology of contemporary English-Canadian poets. Several Canadian authors have been in Italy for public appearances and to participate in seminars, and Professor Capone last year chaired the first seminar on Canadian studies held at the University of Bologna.

The man responsible for much of this activity is Amleto Lorenzini, a 51-year-old, Roman-born Canadian. A trade officer with the Ontario government now based in Rome, he is striving to increase the sale of Ontario-made goods in Europe, turning his trade mission into a culture mission as well.

Arts briefs

Stephen Jefferies of England's Royal Ballet, Covent Garden, appeared with the National Ballet as guest artist for the company's autumn season in Toronto, November 8 to 18. The season included the Canadian premiere of *Elite Syncopations*, a honky-tonk ragtime ballet set to the music of Scott Joplin, and Frederick Ashton's *Les Patineurs*, a tribute to the art of ice skating. The company also performed the Bolshoi classic *Bayaderka*; Ann Ditchburn's story of love and violence in rural Quebec, *Mad Shadows*; the *pas de deux* from *Don Quixote* and Jerome Robbins's *Afternoon of a Faun*.

Roald Nasgaard has been appointed chief curator to the Art Gallery of Ontario. Dr. Nasgaard, who taught for four years at the University of Guelph and teaches part-time at York University, has been a contributing editor to *Arts Magazine* (New York) and a guest editor for *Vie des Arts* (Montreal).

The National Choir of Israel, on its first North-American tour to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the State of Israel, gave a concert at the National Arts Centre, November 16. The 60-voice choir, under the direction of Stanley Sperber, sang Israeli songs, classical and contemporary music, folksongs and traditional Jewish music.