

News of the arts

Quintet to China – a first for Canada

The Canadian Brass Quintet will be the first professional Canadian musical ensemble to perform in the People's Republic of China on a tour from March 10 to 24 arranged by the Department of External Affairs through the Canadian embassy in Peking and the Chinese Friendship Association.

The group, Frederick Mills and Ronald Romm (trumpets), Eugene Watts (trombone), Graeme Page (French horn), Charles Daellenbach (tuba) and concert manager David Haber, will appear in Peking, Wuhan, Chang Cha and Canton. Performances will include renaissance and baroque music and Canadian compositions by Morley Calvert, Harry Freedman, William McCauley and Malcolm Forsythe.

The tour is part of the ongoing cultural exchange program between Canada and the People's Republic of China. Under the program, the Shanghai Dance Company will visit Canada in May and June for performances in Vancouver, Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton; and next year, the Toronto Symphony, conductor Andrew Davis, will be in China with contralto Maureen Forrester and pianist Louis Lortie, under the auspices of the Department of External Affairs.

The Canadian Brass Quintet have made their name as "unstuffy" per-



The Canadian Brass Quintet will be in the U.S. in March before leaving for a tour of China, March 10 to 24.

formers – presenting concerts with a theatrical flair. They are familiar to North American audiences from their three albums on the Boot label (Canadian) and from many solo performances and appearances with major Canadian orchestras across the country. Recently they played in New York with musical comic Peter Schickele in an epic about the opening of the West entitled *Hornsmoke*.

U.S. tour

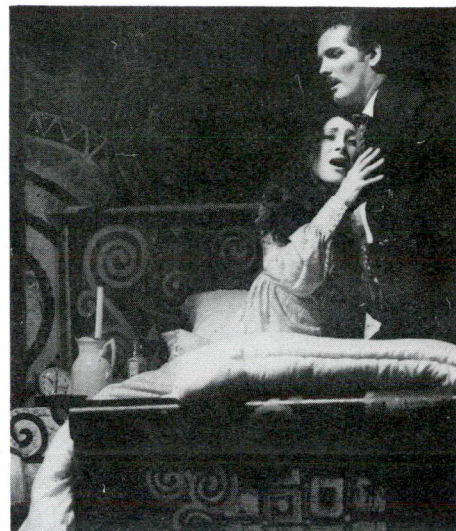
Just prior to their China visit, the Brass will again be in the United States, for engagements in Macon, Georgia and in Jackson, Mississippi early in March. On March 6, they appear at the Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C., as part of the current symposium on twentieth century Canada culture, sponsored by the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States.

Canadian opera on U.S. tour

The Canadian Opera Touring Company opened a nine-week tour of the United States on January 6, with a performance of Puccini's *La Bohème* in Akron, Ohio. The Company will visit 53 U.S. communities during the tour with performances of the Puccini opera and also of Verdi's *La Traviata*.

The new production of *La Bohème* has been staged by John Leberg, with sets by William Lord and costumes coordinated by Andrea Grainger. Cast in principal roles are sopranos Lorna Castaneda and Lois Marsh as Mimi; tenors Glyn Evans and Paul Frey as Rodolfo; baritones Avo Kittask, Lawrence Cooper and Guillermo Silva-Marin as Marcello; sopranos Nancy Hermiston and Barbara Carter as Musetta; baritone Douglas McEachen as Schaunard and base Monte Jaffe as Colline. There will be 36 performances of the Puccini opera, which is being sung in English.

La Traviata, also directed by Mr. Leberg with sets by Murray Laufer and costumes by Miss Grainger, had its *première* performances last spring during the Company's Ontario tour. In the fall of 1976, the production, whose unusual conception and visual design were inspired by the German sensualist painter Gustav Klimt, toured Western Canada.



Robert C. Ragsdale, A.R.P.S.

Barbara Carter as Violetta, Paul Frey as Alfredo in the Canadian Opera Company's production of Verdi's *La Traviata*, now on a nine-week tour of the United States.

Sung in Italian, the Verdi opera also features alternate casts in major roles: Lorna Castaneda and Barbara Carter as Violetta; Glyn Evans and Paul Frey as Rodolfo; and Avo Kittask, Lawrence Cooper and Guillermo Silva-Marin as Germont. Nineteen performances will be given of *La Traviata*.

The Canadian Opera Touring Company includes over 45 singers, musicians and stage crew personnel. Timothy Vernon is music director for the Company and conductor for both productions, and Dwight Bennett is associate conductor.

The tour has been made possible through the assistance of the Department of External Affairs.

Manitoba magazine wins award

Manitoba Moods, a magazine, published quarterly by the Manitoba Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, recently won third place in an international competition sponsored by the International Association of Printing House Craftsmen. The award, given in recognition of superb printing, was presented at the Association's annual convention at Kissimmee, Florida, U.S.A.

Founded in 1919, the Association has 15,000 members in 16 countries, primarily the United States and Canada, representing about 9,000 printing firms.