

News of the arts

Symphonies in trouble — Belafonte helps out

Popular entertainer Harry Belafonte recently concluded a cross-Canada tour of benefit performances, partly sponsored by IBM, in support of nine Canadian orchestras. The tour was expected to raise between \$300,000 and \$400,000 for symphony orchestras from Toronto, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Hamilton, Ottawa and Halifax.

During a ceremony of appreciation at the National Arts Centre on December 20, Prime Minister Trudeau, Secretary of State John Roberts and the managers of the nine orchestras concerned, participated in the presentation of a diploma and an Inuit sculpture to Mr. Belafonte.

In an expression of gratitude the Prime Minister said, "There are many



Belafonte (left) and Prime Minister Trudeau (right) at the National Arts Centre.

ways of being great, and there are many characteristics one looks for in men and women of whom we say they are great

human beings...Harry Belafonte is great for what he is, and for what he does — great as an artist and great as a man."

Canadian contemporary painters in New Zealand

A touring collection of 21 canvasses from the Art Bank of the Canada Council has been receiving kudos from New Zealand art critics. The exhibition, which features the work of seven Canadian artists, is travelling under the auspices of the Department of External Affairs. During the past

summer, it was shown at the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris and opened its New Zealand tour at the National Gallery in Wellington on September 7. The collection was shown later in Christchurch, Dunedin and Hamilton. After a stop in Auckland, the collection leaves for a ten-

month tour through galleries in Australia.

The Canadian High Commission in Wellington reports an excellent reception for the paintings to date. Christopher Youngs, director of the Art Bank, was in New Zealand for the opening, and as New Zealand is considering an art-purchasing program similar to that of the Canadian bank, he held a seminar for the Association of Gallery Directors.



Ronald D. Woolf

(Left to right) Ormond Wilson, chairman, National Art Gallery in Wellington; Christopher Youngs, director of the Art Bank of the Canada Council; Mervyn Day, director of the National Art Gallery, and Clive Glover, High Commissioner for Canada in New Zealand, discuss Ron Martin's *Bocour Blue*, at the first exhibition of the collection "Canadian Contemporary Painters" which opened a tour of New Zealand at the National Gallery in Wellington.

Arts briefs

The Canadian Embassy in Warsaw reports "unqualified success" for the McGill Chamber Orchestra tour in Eastern Europe. The group of 14 musicians under conductor Alexander Brott opened their tour with a concert at the National Philharmonic in Warsaw on December 13. They also appeared in Wroclaw, Poland and in Ostrava, Czechoslovakia. Concerts were also given in Hungary at Nagy Kaniza and Budapest.

The Canadian film *Raison d'Etre*, directed by Yves Dion, recently shared second prize with two American entries at the Ninth International Film Festival in Nyon, Switzerland. *Les Enfants de l'Emotion*, by Michel Moreau of Canada, was one of three films to receive special mention by the jury of film personalities from five countries.