



A youthful contestant at the Manitoba Music Festival.

Music

There are ten Canadian symphony orchestras; and those in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver have established notable reputations. Leading conductors are Sir Ernest Macmillan and Ettore Mazzoleni of the Toronto Symphony, Désiré Defauw of Les Concerts Symphoniques of Montreal, Jean-Marie Beaudet and Jacques Singer. Among outstanding conductors now in the United States are Reginald Stewart, Wilfred Pelletier, and Percy Faith. Mariss Vetra, formerly of the Latvian National Opera at Riga and now with the Halifax Conservatory, is typical of many European artists who, in the past decade, have been contributing greatly to the musical life of Canada.

Thousands of vocal and instrumental soloists, choirs, and orchestras compete annually in regional and national musical festivals. The festival concerts are enthusiastically attended and are important events in the musical life of many communities. The Winnipeg Musical Festival is the largest of its kind in the Commonwealth. Scholarships and prizes offered at these festivals encourage young artists in the pursuit of their studies; the violinist Donna Grescoe of Winnipeg is an example of one who has achieved a wide reputation after a festival beginning.

There are numerous choral organizations, some of which have won international acclaim. One of the oldest Canadian choral groups is the Mendelssohn Choir of Toronto. Other well-established choirs are Les Disciples de Massenet, the Philharmonic Choir of Winnipeg, the Leslie Bell Singers, and the Bach Choir of Vancouver. At the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto a school of opera, initiated by Arnold Walter, is conducted by

Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

