

At a recent meeting with Franz Kraemer and Tim Porteus of the Canada Council, it was suggested that the Music Gallery's operating funds from the Canada Council music department might be cut from their 1978/79 level of \$22,500. Considerations included the following:

—There has been a general cut-back in Federal funding for the arts.

—The music department has not traditionally funded spaces, although grants to performance groups may include funds for the rental of rehearsal and concert space. There were several references to the problem of the Council having no "control" over the programming decisions of an institution like the gallery, especially those which tend to increase its operating costs, although the gallery does provide the Council with detailed programming information and audited financial statements with all grant proposals and final reports.

—While the visual arts, theatre and dance departments provide funds to maintain performance/exhibition spaces, and although the music department has provided funds to spaces for music programming, it is reluctant to establish a precedent of providing operating funds to spaces, especially when there are already groups in other cities who feel that there is a need for other facilities like this one, and when the fraction of the Council's music budget which is available for contemporary Canadian music is so small. The Music Gallery has applied to the music department for programming funds but so far has not received any.

—Reservations were expressed about funding a space which is primarily a service to musicians, a "lab" where artists practice their "hobby", rather than, presumably, a dealer in finished products. It should be pointed out that the Music Gallery's uniqueness lies in the fact that it provides **both** a concert/exhibition facility and a production centre for works of art (music).

While the music we present reflects perhaps a lack of emphasis on spectacle, and tends to be "authentic" rather than "authoritative", the direction of our programming has

evolved, and continues to evolve, in response to the real needs of working composers and performers. Without the working of art, obviously, there would be no works of art. Moreover, where modest amounts of money have been available for programming we have offered special events, like the electronic music festival, which generated large and enthusiastic audiences.

—There was also a reluctance to consider any funding for the record company, Music Gallery Editions, on the grounds that this would establish a precedent whereby any group or individual could approach the Council for funds to produce records. Although Music Gallery Editions has not applied to the music department for funds for record production, it has asked the Council for assistance to pay the salary of its director, so that sales revenue can be available to make further records. Leaving aside the question of whether the Canada Council should be supporting the production of contemporary Canadian music on record, Music Gallery Editions is not just a group with a project but an active producer with a current catalogue of 28 records, of which four were assisted by a grant from Explorations and the rest were produced through private loans, donations and sales revenue.

If you feel that what the Music Gallery is doing is important, not just to the local community but to the general complexion of Canadian music, we would greatly appreciate it if you would write a letter of support. If you could, please send the letter to us, with copies to: **Timothy Porteus**, Executive Director, The Canada Council, 255 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5V8; **Franz Kraemer**, Music Department, The Canada Council; **Geoffrey James**, Head, Visual Arts Dept., The Canada Council; **Zelda Heller**, Music Dept., Ontario Arts Council, 151 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1T6; **Michael Bell**, Ontario Arts Council.

Allan Mattes/Peter Anson
Directors

In 1976-77 (last available figures) The Canada Council music dept. gave grants to groups and organizations totalling 6 1/4 million dollars, divided as follows (percentages): Symphony orchestras and associations: 61.5, Operas and assoc.: 18.5; Chamber orchestras and ensembles: 4; Choirs and chamber choirs: 4; Canadian League of Composers and Canadian Music Centre: 3; Contemporary Music Groups: 2; Publications: 1; Misc. Festivals, Competitions and groups: 6.

* For its 1977-78 season the Music Gallery received \$21,000 from the C.C. Music Dept. This operating grant, along with \$11,000 from the OAC, paid the costs of renting the building, utilities, insurance, 2 \$7,000 salaries, publicity and general office expense. * In this period the Gallery presented 160 concerts of contemporary Canadian music. 80 of these were by the CCMC from which the Gallery received 100 per cent of the gate (\$500), and 80 were by guest artists, with \$1,800 going to the Gallery (20 per cent of a total gate of \$9,000). * All concerts were taped for the Gallery archive. * 375 children attended workshops at the Gallery. * 4 issues of Musicworks were published, in co-operation with Only Paper Today, to provide a forum for Canadian views on contemporary music. * The Gallery provided access to its rehearsal and recording facilities to a membership of 50, receiving dues of \$1,000. * A series of 8 interdisciplinary performances by artists from outside Toronto was held with the assistance of a \$6,700 grant from the C.C. Visual Arts Dept. (Parallel Galleries program). * 9 records were produced by Music Gallery Editions (MGE) with the help of the Bronfman Foundation and with private loans & donations. * Private donations, with a \$10,000 matching grant from Wintario, also helped equip the recording studio.

For the 1978-79 season the Gallery received \$22,500 from the C.C. music dept., and \$12,000 from the OAC. Operating costs are higher in this period in all categories except staff salaries. To date there have been 79 concerts: 32 by the CCMC with receipts totalling \$461, and 47 guest artist concerts with the Gallery receiving \$1,692. * The tape archive was catalogued and is available, along with a growing record library made possible thru exchange by MGE with other record companies. * The children's workshop program continues 1 per month. * Musicworks has become an independent new music periodical. * Member use of the recording facility has now increased to virtually 24 hrs. per day. 5 other groups also use the Gallery on a regular basis: U.H.F.O., The Monday Orchestra, New Band, The Glass Orchestra, New Music Cooperative. * Recording studio is being upgraded thru donations and a \$13,000 matching Wintario grant. Another series of interdisciplinary events is being funded by the C.C. visual arts dept. * Music Gallery Editions now has a catalogue of 28 records of contemporary Canadian music, 14 currently available, others in various stages of production. 4 of these are being produced with the aid of an Explorations grant.

