



Lower center, the National Arts Centre.

it. It has received such consistent praise that RCA (Canada) is already about to release its second Red Seal record. The first, "Five Songs for Dark Voice," featuring Canadian composer Harry Somers and Canadian contralto Maureen Forrester was a strong seller.

Among other engagements outside of Canada the orchestra played in New York last February, to a capacity house. "Beautiful," "front-rank," and "marvelous" said the New York Times.

The N.A.C. Theatre, seating nine hundred, has the proscenium stage of Shakespeare, with some removable seats for an enlarged stage, and is the setting for a series called Theatre from Coast to Coast, in which the best of the regional theatres is invited to perform.

Next year Jean Roberts, directress of the Centre's resident theatre company, will put on two shows in the theatre — one for an English-speaking audience and one for a French one — as part of its subscription series. Experimental plays are performed in the Studio, with actors under contract by the show, rather than by the season.

This small, hexagonal theatre, with one of the most versatile stages in the world, can change the size of its stage and can have its actors perform in the round or even have the audience in the round and the actors in the ring. The audience

usually sits on chairs or pillows on the encircling bleachers, all of which, including the bleachers, can be removed. Actors can enter from the wings or from movable stairs which can be shifted along any one of the six sides of the narrow balcony.

The Intimate Salon, a comfortable room seating 150, is used for ethnic folk dancing, chamber music, small experimental works or, on occasion, as a rental space at \$60 for receptions, from bridal to political. This fall another small area, a "mini-ciné," is expected to be opened as a film center.

As high as attendance at regular events has been, it has been surpassed by attendance at the student matinées which are held for English and French theatre and for opera and the dance. In the Centre's first year six matinée concerts drew 17,000 students.

Every month each school in the metropolitan area is called to pick up its sack at a side door — a big brown bag of posters of the next attractions and the rates at which they're offered. Students, as well as the elderly, can buy a series of five matinée concert tickets for \$5 and students usually make up the bulk of any stand-by crowd in the evening. And it takes a good thing to make one stand by on a winter's evening in Ottawa.