

Stamp issued by Canada Post on March 23 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, one of the largest principal orchestras in Canada.



followers in Canada and in other countries including Nashville, 'the heart and soul of country music.'

In children's music, Canadian musicians are amongst the most successful in the world. Raffi, Penner and trio Sharon, Lois and Bram consistently play to sell-out concerts and enjoy booming record sales. The music itself is varied and complex, ranging from Raffi's soft soothing tones of jazzy vitality, Fred Penner's twanging guitar to the eclectic sound of Sharon, Lois and Bram that incorporates such instruments as a country fiddle, dulcimer, krummhorn, handsaw, harpsichord and even a garbage can.

Increased awareness

The Canada Council established in 1957 and the many other arts councils across the country including Canada's first, the Saskatchewan Arts Board established in 1949, have helped to provide the atmosphere for music to flourish in Canada. In addition, through the generous aid from these institutions and many other agencies, societies and organisations, as well as assistance from the Department of External Affairs, Canadian music and musicians have become better known internationally. In some centres, as in London, England, the permanent Canadian cultural centre, Canada House, presents up to 200 cultural events each year with many of them in the field of music.



Toronto Symphony Orchestra in the new Roy Thomson Concert Hall

Photo: Courtesy of Ontario House

While Canadian musicians have always received assistance from the business world, corporate sponsorship of the arts has dramatically increased in the past few years. Generous contributions were made by a number of corporations for the Toronto Symphony Orchestra's European tour in 1983 while the Bank of Montreal paid for the Montreal Symphony's appearance at Carnegie Hall, New York in the Spring of 1983 and was the major contributor for their 1984 European tour.

The creation of schools and educational facilities for the study of music in Canada has also been an important element in the growth of music in the country. Toronto was the first city to establish a music conservatory but others including the Royal

Conservatory of Music in Montreal and the Banff School of Fine Arts quickly followed. By the mid 1970s some 25 universities and other schools were giving degree courses in various music areas including composition. Today music programmes are well-established in school curriculae at all levels.

In addition, the distribution of scholarships, prizes and awards has become an integral part of the entire music life in Canada and numerous competitions are held each year now for both composers and performers. Some like the du Maurier Search for the Stars involve all areas of music with prizes awarded to musicians from the classical to the country and western fields. There are also many individual awards like the JUNO awards for popular entertainers and ACME awards for country and western entertainers as well.

The last week of November has been established by the Canadian Federation of Music Teacher's Association as Canada Music Week and it is now observed in every community across the country where music is taught. The idea for a special week dates back to 1959 when a contest offering a prize for an original Canadian composition was initiated by a small group of music teachers in Vancouver. During the week Canadian composers and performing musicians are encouraged to develop interest and knowledge in Canada's own music.

Publicly controlled broadcasting and television have proved of great benefit to Canadian musicians. The contribution of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) has been outstanding in making Canadians across the country aware of talented musicians within the country through their broadcasts. In addition they employ a large number of Canadian musicians as well as sponsoring talent festivals and music competitions. More recently CBC has become involved in the recording industry and has produced many albums of high calibre Canadian music. CBC Enterprises is the largest manufacturer and distributor of Canadian classical recordings and has produced a highly acclaimed series that involves musicians and orchestras from across the country.

Other radio stations too provide an outlet for Canadian talent. Since 1971, with the enactment of the Canadian Content legislation (cancon), at least 30 per cent of prime time broadcasting has involved Canadians.

Music festivals are another important aspect of Canada's musical life. Since the first one in Quebec City early in the nineteenth century, festivals have been held in other centres in the country from time to time. During the second half of the twentieth century, there was enormous growth in both the number and variety and now Canada hosts many world-famous music festivals every year including the Stratford Festival, the Vancouver International Festival, the Charlottetown Festival, the Guelph Spring Festival and Festival Ottawa. This year Canada will hold two unique and special festivals; Canada's first-ever international children's and youth choir festival in Powell River, BC and the Toronto International Festival, the largest music and dance festival ever held in Canada. ♦

Much of the material in this article is from the Encyclopaedia of Music in Canada, edited by Helmut Kallmann, Gilles Potvin and Kenneth Winters, U of T Press, Toronto