

Concert for television

Canada's celebrated tenor Jon Vickers recently appeared at the National Arts Centre (NAC) in Ottawa singing excerpts from some of his most famous operas. The concert was then broadcast on CBC television on December 6.



Jon Vickers

The National Arts Centre Orchestra accompanied Mr. Vickers and performed orchestral excerpts from the operas under the direction of Franz Paul Decker. Journalist and broadcaster Patrick Watson was the host for both the concert and telecast.

Mr. Vickers opened the concert with a recitative and aria from Handel's dramatic oratorio *Samson* and then sang substantial excerpts from operatic roles in which he has attained pre-eminence in our time: Florestan in *Fidelio* and Peter in *Peter Grimes*. A scene from his portrayal in *Otello* shown on a large screen during the concert was also part of the television special.

Jon Vickers is the only heroic tenor of international standing who, with equal authority and dramatic conviction, sings the major roles in Italian opera, French opera, German opera and English opera. He is noted both for the unique timbre of his voice and for his powerful identification with each character he portrays.

Mr. Vickers, who has sung at Covent Garden, Bayreuth, the Vienna Staatsoper, Teatro Colon, La Scala and the Metropolitan Opera, has recorded his greatest roles, sometimes more than once, under leading-conductors.

Popular song winner

A Canadian song, *Party Lights* composed by George Duke and sung by Quebec vocalist France Joli, shared top honours in the fifteenth International Popular Songs Festival held at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan.

The two best songs were selected from 19 entries from 15 countries and six from Japan. *Party Lights* shared the honours with the Japanese entry *Rock 'n' Roll for Pains* by Atsumi Matsuzaki and sung by the four-member group, Tomcat. Both songs were awarded \$10 000 (US).

France Joli, 21, also won the \$3 000 award for outstanding performance, together with Hungary's Korali Katona.

Nineteenth century quilts featured in exhibition

The innovative achievements and skilled craftsmanship of quilt-makers of the past are currently being revealed in an exhibition entitled *Early Canadian Quilts*, at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto.

The exhibition, which includes 30 nineteenth century quilts from Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes will remain open until April 8, 1985.

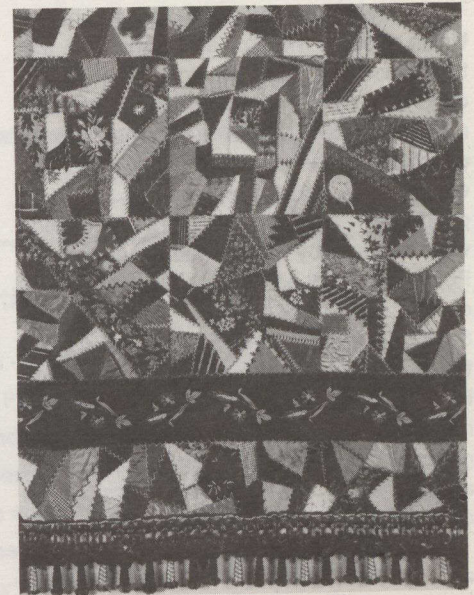
Craft with artistic touch

The quilts, colourfully pieced, skillfully applied or embroidered, illustrate a utilitarian craft that often may be described as art. As well, they demonstrate the surprisingly wide variety of fabrics available in Canada at the time.

Pieced quilts also show a genius for economy of material as well as a good sense of design and colour. Produced from many small fragments into a satisfying whole, they can be looked on as feats of engineering.

One pieced quilt, made around 1870 in the Newmarket area of Ontario, is called a "friendship" quilt because many pieces were given to the maker by different friends. The colour placement of the small squares produces a curious optical effect.

Applied quilts, made of new materials and sometimes from published patterns, are more sophisticated. Frequently included in trousseaus, these quilts were created with an eye more for beauty than function and used only on special occasions. One outstanding example of an embroidered quilt that is on display, was made by a Ladies' Congregational Society in the Brantford area of Ontario as a gift to a local minister leaving



Detail of a "crazy quilt" made in Brantford, Ontario, 1875-1899. This patchwork quilt is made of coloured velvets and fancy silks in many shapes and sizes. The band of black satin across each end is embroidered with very bright coloured floral meander.

to do missionary work in Africa. It was embroidered with parishioners' names and the names of pet dogs on the reverse.

Some of the other quilts of note are: an all-white quilt, made in Port Elgin, Ontario, about 1850, that demonstrates quilting without the diversion of colour; a "house" pattern quilt, pieced with multiples of a stylized house in a variety of patterned cottons; and a recent acquisition, a Renfrew County homespun quilt stitched in a shell pattern.



Section of a white cotton quilt appliqued in red, green and burnt orange. The appliqued motifs are quilted in cutline, the field in lozenge pattern. The quilt was made in the third quarter of the nineteenth century in Napanee, Ontario.