

experimental drama can be performed. In the short space of a dozen years, the school has already turned out several first-rate actors and actresses, as well as designers, technicians, stage-managers and directors who are making significant contributions to the Canadian theatre scene.

The high standard of dancing in the National Ballet stems mostly from the formation of the National Ballet School in 1959. While it grew out of the needs of the National Ballet, the National Ballet School quickly achieved its own identity. The school, which attracts students from across Canada, also offers a full academic course, thus providing ballet training by international standards and a formal education simultaneously.

Basic music training has usually been carried on outside school hours in private studios, and this situation still prevails today. Conservatories, colleges and schools of music organize the private teaching activity into a balanced system of training. Music courses are now offered in nearly all Canadian universities.

Observance of Canada's centennial accounted for the construction and acquisition of a number of buildings for the performing arts across Canada. Imposing new structures, with facilities for the most ambitious and complex productions, were built in several provinces, and more and more of the old opera houses and empty cinemas are being converted for the use of local groups and touring companies. The universities, too, are providing accommodation for the performing arts. With more theatres available, the number of resident professional companies has increased, resulting in a growing decentralization of the professional theatre.

In 1964, the National Arts Centre in Ottawa was approved as a centennial undertaking. It is a Crown corporation, the objectives of which are to operate and maintain a National Arts Centre to develop the performing arts in the National Capital region and to assist the Canada Council in the development of the arts elsewhere in Canada. The opening of the Centre in May 1969 signified much more than the provision of a much-needed group of auditoriums. Time could well show that the National Arts Centre can serve two purposes, as "a centre for national arts and a national centre for the arts".

RP/A