

REVIEW OF PAST ACTIVITIES (1987-90)

Canadian cultural events continued to increase in number, ranging from small solo-events or one-man exhibits, to gala performances by symphony orchestras and classical ballet companies. Canadian musicians and dancers have been most successful in establishing themselves on the German cultural scene, but a number of visual artists have also gained recognition in Germany. It is also gratifying that Canadian writers, led by such stars as Margaret Atwood, Alice Munro and Michael Ondaatje, can increasingly be found in German bookstores.

Following are some of the highlights of the past three years.

Music

The tour, in November 1989, of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra under Charles Dutoit, was a resounding success. Critics praised the orchestra highly, and audiences were enthusiastic. Other ensembles which toured successfully were the Canadian Chamber Orchestra and Tafelmusik.

Just as successful as the MSO, but appealing to a rather different audience, was the rock star Bryan Adams, who performed to widely enthusiastic crowds in the fall of 1989. A different musical experience was provided by the Canadian Brass, who toured Germany several times, delighting audiences with their inimitable blend of virtuoso playing and irreverent clowning. German jazz enthusiasts were delighted by Moe Koffman and his quintet in March 1990, as they were by Leonard Cohen's concerts in April 1988.

A number of Canadian soloists, such as cellist Ofra Harnoy and pianist Angela Hewitt, performed before appreciative audiences, the latter receiving critical acclaim especially for her interpretation of Bach and Messiaen sonatas.

Quite a number of Canadian musicians, such as trumpet player Richard Steuart, pianist Chia Chou, guitarist Dale Kavanagh, and sopranos Edith Wiens and Suzanne Gari, make their home in Germany, performing regularly as soloists or as member of ensembles.

Amateur and school choirs are also regular visitors to Germany, performing regularly as soloists or as member of ensembles.

Amateur and school choirs are also regular visitors to Germany, and foster by their performances a range of professional and personal contacts that enrich the bilateral cultural relationship.