

of international trends and national traditions



Country-singer Anne Murray

folk-music traditions have continued to influence classical composition.

Music also has strong affinities with Canadian literature and art. Serge Garant has set Eskimo folk-poems and Norma Beecroft has taken Leonard Cohen's works as texts. Similarly, the paintings of Lawren Harris and Emily Carr have evoked neo-impressionist responses from Harry Freedman. Morel's *L'Etoile noire* is a vivid orchestral reminder of a Paul-Emile Borduas painting and Derek Healey's *Arctic Images* were inspired by a series of prints by Eskimo artists.

Groups and soloists

In performance, Canadians learned early to respect and demand excellence. Amateur choirs began a tradition of high standards in choral music and Canada's oldest-surviving mixed-voice choir, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, begun in 1894, had established itself as one of the world's leading choirs by the early twentieth century. Today virtually every Canadian city can boast choirs of fine quality and large enough to perform great choral works.

The establishment of symphony orchestras in Canada dates from the early part of this century. The Quebec Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1903 and a symphony orchestra was first founded in Toronto in 1907. The present Toronto Symphony dates from 1923 and the Montreal Symphony was established in 1935. The National Youth Orchestra came into being in 1960 and provides an opportunity for musicians under 25 years of age to develop their talents on a professional level. By 1980, there were 11 major orchestras in the country as well as many large community, chamber and radio orchestras.

There have always been ensembles of various size and composition in Canadian centres. Ranging from wood-wind ensembles to mixed string and wind combinations to string groups, they have contributed greatly to Canadian musical life and are increasingly heard across the country, even in the most remote areas. Toronto's Hart House String Quartet was one of the first to be recognized, but today the list of highly acclaimed Canadian groups is endless: Montreal's Baroque Trio, Vancouver's Baroque Strings, the Orford String Quartet and Purcell String Quartet are only a few.

In the early 1970s, there were only three opera companies in Canada, The Canadian Opera Company in Toronto, the Vancouver Opera Association and the Edmonton Opera Association. By 1983 there were opera companies in many Canadian cities and with some 15 organizations that produce opera in one form or another receiving financial assistance from the government.

Canada has also produced many outstanding individual classical musicians and singers. Until the middle of the twentieth century, however, most of the talented artists like Kathleen Parlow, Emma Albani, Raoul Jobin and Edward Johnson received their training and established their careers in other countries. Opera singers Lois Marshall, Louis Quilico, Jon Vickers, Maureen Forrester and

Teresa Stratas, pianist Glenn Gould, violinist Steven Stryk and classical guitarist Liona Boyd were among the first generation of Canadians to achieve fully professional status within Canada as well as being acclaimed and sought-after throughout the world. The tradition continues today and the new generation of superstars including Ofra Harnoy, Jane MacKenzie, Susan Bingemann, Gino Quilico, Philip Thompson and Paul Koprowski, are establishing themselves in Canada at the same time as they are gaining international acclaim and enlarging their experience abroad.

Jazz has always drawn numerous gifted Canadian musicians. Many soloists emerged in the 1940s and by the 1950s, jazz music had come into its own in the country. Oscar Peterson, Jim Galloway, Fraser MacPherson, Jean Beaudet, Oliver Jones as well as guitarists Ed Bickert, Nelson Symonds and Sonny Greenwich stand among the country's most important jazz musicians. They have helped to establish a jazz tradition that is in some measure of Canadian origin, and through their own individualistic styles made an important impact on many younger jazz musicians.

Up until the 1960s acceptance of singers and singer-composers of popular music varied across the country. In Quebec, the *chansonniers* who wrote and sang songs reflecting their society were very popular and some like Gilles Vigneault, Pauline Julien and Monique Leyrac became widely recognized both inside and outside of the province. On the other hand, singer-composers from English speaking Canada like Paul Anka, Joni Mitchell and Ian Tyson, singers like Bobby Curtola or groups like The Guess Who had to earn their reputations outside the country before they were accepted at home. Gordon Lightfoot was one of the first to firmly establish his success in Canada before becoming known internationally. His style was original: he described a lonely, disenchanted people in a warm but intense and personal manner. Since the 1970s, a period of rapid growth in the recording industry, popular entertainers like Anne Murray and Juliette and rock groups like Rush, The Band, Loverboy and the Payolas as well as Bruce Cockburn have large audiences.

Native folk music has become increasingly popular since the 1970s. Cree folksinger and songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie, who championed native rights, and Métis songwriter and folksinger, Pierre Falcon, contributed to the greater interest in Native folk songs. In 1975, the first record produced by the Native Council of Canada, *Native Country*, featured the folk songs of Shingoose. There has also been a revival in the ancient forms of music. *Katadjait*, a throat song sung by the Inuit women of Povungnituk, reflecting everything in their environment from babies to boiling water, is one form of such music that is often now performed for Canadian audiences.

Country music has also been popular in Canada from the early days especially in rural areas. Many of the stars like Don Messer, Marie Bottrell, Wilf Carter, Tommy Hunter, Mary Bailey and 'Stompin' Tom Connors are well known to country-music

Toronto Orford String Quartet to play at St Bartholomew's Church in Orford



Photo: Alexander Ramsay