

# News of the arts

## Children's book festival

The fourth annual Children's Book Festival took place recently with the aim of informing the public about Canadian children's books.

The week-long national festival is organized by the Children's Book Centre which was established in Toronto in 1976. It serves as a resource and information centre, stages the festival and prepares newsletters and author kits.

During the festival there were more than 130 readings by authors across Canada. Special festival kits containing book-related activities for children were sent to 5,000 schools, libraries and book stores.

Publishers indicate that it is a sellers' market for the rights to Canadian children's books. Several film and television productions of Canadian books are currently being planned and foreign publishers have been bidding for international rights at book fairs.

## Country Christmas special in Canada

American country music performers Loretta Lynn and Glen Campbell are hosts for the CBS television special *A Country Christmas in the Canadian Rockies*, which was filmed near Calgary.

The hour-long show, sold for distribution in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and several European markets, is the result of negotiations with the producers by the Canadian Government Office of Tourism.

"We are encouraging, with the help of other partners, such as airlines, hotel systems and the provinces, the production of such shows in Canada, as part of our promotion of this country as a tourist destination," said Charles Lapointe, Minister of State for Small Business and minister responsible for tourism.

Location shooting took place in Heritage Park near Calgary and in the Calgary-Banff area.

## Ballet school in Calgary

The National Ballet School of Toronto, the Calgary public school board and a group of local ballet enthusiasts are planning to open a preparatory ballet school in Calgary in the autumn of 1981.

The proposed school will accept about 50 children between the ages of seven and 12 and will follow the National Ballet School's junior dance program. Selection of students will be made through auditions.

It will allow "young Western children to begin their ballet studies without living so far from home", said Betty Oliphant, founder and principal of the National Ballet School, which has about 100 students from the age of ten.

Miss Oliphant says children admitted to the Calgary program will receive an extra three years' training as well as another two years' residence with or close to their families.

## Medieval music makes its mark

Four Montreal women have formed a group that specializes in medieval music (music of the twelfth to fifteenth centuries).

The group *Sanz Cuer*, which takes its name from the title of a French lament of the Middle Ages, is made up of Judith Cohen, Michèle Sauvé, Susan Palmer and Ariane Dind.

Judith Cohen, who researches the music played by the group, has travelled as far as the Montserrat monastery near Barcelona, Spain for musical manuscripts. The group also has to determine how to play the music once it is found. Beats and measures are not marked on the manuscripts and the group has to depend on its musical intuition.

"We have to invent the arrangements ourselves, because they aren't indicated either. We have to guess what instruments were probably used, on the basis of medieval paintings depicting musicians. Even then, if there are eight people in a row with their instruments, we do not know whether they really all played together or whether they only posed together for the artist," said Miss Cohen.

The instruments played by the members of *Sanz Cuer* are modern reconstructions of instruments depicted in paintings or kept in museums.



*The Sanz Cuer group plays music of the twelfth to fifteenth centuries.*

Among these instruments are the rebec and the vielle (two bowed, stringed instruments), the psaltery, the krummhorn, a J-shaped wind instrument, the derbouka or Middle-Eastern tambourine, the bombardon (double-reed ancestor of the oboe), the Turkish spoons (for rhythm),

the bagpipes, with double-reed pipe, the dulcimer and the recorder.

Four of these instruments played together do not make a very loud sound, so *Sanz Cuer* usually plays to small audiences. The group's repertoire includes medieval, religious, satirical and love songs.

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