



Angela Hewitt is congratulated as First Prize winner of the 1985 International Bach Piano Competition. (Photo: *The Citizen*)

One of the ancient music specialists recognized abroad is Kenneth Gilbert (1931). His outstanding interpretations have influenced organ-building practices in Canada. He is also a respected teacher, editor of *Livre d'orgue de Montréal* and a recording artist. For his many records, he favours the harpsichord works of Rameau and Bach.

Gilbert is the prime example of the strong school of organists in Montreal. Not only was this city at the forefront in the rediscovery of tracker-action (mechanical) instruments in North America, it also houses a collection of fine organs played by sensitive musicians such as Mireille Lagacé (1935) and Réjean Poirier (1950). Hugh McLean (1930) and Patrick Wedd (1948) are top organists in English Canada.

The mastering of string instruments takes years of arduous practice. While the schools of music in Canada have supplied its orchestras with adequate players, few soloists have emerged from the ranks. Violinist Steven Staryk (1932), former concertmaster of Britain's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (at age 24 he was the youngest ever hired), the Concertgebouw of Amsterdam and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, now leads the Toronto Symphony while actively engaged in a solo recording career. Since moving to Canada in 1952, Polish-born violinist Ida Haendel (1924) has continued her intercontinental career.