

The Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today that Canada will be sending to the United States some of its best performing artists and companies to help celebrate the 200th Anniversary of American independence. The Bicentennial celebrations which have already begun will continue until the end of 1976.

Canadian participation in the celebrations will take various forms and announcements will be made from time to time. A main focus will be a major Festival of Canadian Arts to be held in Washington at the John F. Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts, October 13-26, 1975 under the Cultural Relations Programme of the Department of External Affairs and with the assistance of the Touring Office of the Canada Council.

The artists and companies representing Canada at this Festival will include Maureen Forrester, Oscar Peterson and Monique Leyrac in solo recitals; Louis Quilico as guest soloist with the National Arts Centre Orchestra of Canada, conducted by Mario Bernardi, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, conducted by Elmer Iseler, featuring the Festival Singers of Canada and the Canadian Brass.

The Shaw Festival Company from Niagara-on-the-Lake will present a special production of *The Devil's Disciple* including a contingent from Kingston's Fort Henry Guards.

One of Canada's outstanding operas, *Louis Riel*, (words by Mavor Moore and Jacques Languirand; music by Harry Somers) will be presented by the Canadian Opera Company featuring Bernard Turgeon as Riel and conducted by Victor Feldbrill. The National Arts Centre is re-staging its production of Offenbach's well-known comic opera, *La Belle Hélène*, conducted by Pierre Hétu.

In addition to these activities a Canadian Film Festival will be presented in the John F. Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts as well as an exhibition of prints on the theme *Canadian Landscapes*.

Further activities in the performing arts which will take place throughout the United States during the Bicentennial period include performances by the Montreal and National Arts Centre Orchestras, the Festival Singers of Canada, le Théâtre du Nouveau Monde, the Vancouver Playhouse, the Stratford Festival Company, the National Ballet, the Codco Theatre Company from Newfoundland and the Charlottetown Festival production of *Kronburg*.