

News of the arts

Chalmers music prize awarded

Shawna Farrell, a soprano with the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble, has been named the recipient of the Canadian Opera Company's 1981 Chalmers Award for excellence in musical performance.

Lotfi Mansouri, general director of the company, presented the award, a \$1,500 cheque, to Miss Farrell.

In announcing the award to the young Toronto singer, Mansouri commended her on her outstanding contribution to the COC Ensemble during its inaugural year. Miss Farrell appeared at the 1980 Summer Festival at Harbourfront as Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel* and as Sylviane in the COC's recent staging of *The Merry Widow*. She also performed with the Ensemble at the recent Metropolitan Opera Ball in New York City.

Miss Farrell, a graduate of the opera program at the University of Toronto, will appear next year with the COC as Adele in the winter presentation of the Johann Strauss operetta *Die Fledermaus*.

Glass collection donated to ROM



Sydney Hermant, chairman of the Royal Ontario Museum's board of trustees and John Yaremko, former Solicitor General of Ontario, examine two rare goblets from the John and Mary Yaremko Collection of Canadian and American Glass. The collection, consisting of more than 1,000 pieces of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century glassware was donated by Mr. Yaremko to the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto recently.

Hurtubise works on display

A major exhibition of paintings and prints by Quebec artist Jacques Hurtubise, a leading figure in the development of contemporary Canadian art for the past 20 years, is on display at the Vancouver Art Gallery until July 26.

The exhibition consists of 69 pieces, each reflective of the ideas which have occupied Hurtubise for the past two decades.

Hurtubise has been painting most of his life. He began at 17 by copying reproductions, postcards, comic strips and the tops of chocolate boxes, mounting his canvases on the back of a refrigerator at the rear of his father's grocery store. He soon realized he would rather make art than help run his father's establishment, and in 1956 enrolled at the Ecole des Beaux Arts.

The exhibition focuses on the previously unshown, large abstract colour paintings at which Hurtubise has been working for the past three years. Hurtubise's exuberance and zest for painting is balanced by a systematic and meticulous approach to the process and evolution of each work. Form, colour, design, all are precise and deliberately executed. Even Hurtubise's characteristic "splashes" are intentional and no mere accident.

"I don't just paint for the gestural way of doing it, like the automatistes did," he explains. "If there is a drop in my paintings, it is because I want it to stay



Gilles Dempsey, Vancouver Art Gallery

Jacques Hurtubise in his studio at work on *Iapocalips*, a large 10'x32' acrylic and charcoal painting which is on view at the one-man exhibition organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery. Hurtubise has exhibited on three continents and is represented in most Canadian public and corporate collections.

there, otherwise I have to take it off or to make it disappear."

Following the closing in Vancouver, the exhibition will travel to the Musée d'art contemporain, Montreal, where it will be on display from September 24 through November 8.

Cultural organizations get arts funding

The federal government has announced assistance totalling \$11,253,771 to Canadian cultural organizations.

The series of projects to assist arts and cultural organizations and activities across Canada are being funded as part of the Department of Communications' special program of cultural initiatives which is financed through the federal-provincial lotteries agreement of 1980.

Urgently needed

"This program allows us to respond to certain urgent needs of Canadian artistic and cultural organizations while we await the conclusion of our cultural policy review currently under way by the Federal Cultural Policy Review Committee," said Communications Minister Francis Fox.

The special program was first outlined by Mr. Fox last December. At that time, the minister noted that the program, totalling \$39.6 million to be distributed over three fiscal years, is composed of four separate categories under which financial assistance is available. Unlike other government programs, funds allocated to the special program of cultural initiatives are on a non-lapsing basis for its three-year duration.

The four categories of projects funded under the program are: deficit reductions for cultural organizations and institutions; management development in performing arts organizations; capital assistance to cultural institutions; and assistance to special cultural activities national in character and significance.