

C anadians Crowd International Classics Scene

There was a time, back in the 1950s and early 1960s, when Canadians had begun to make their mark on the international music scene, both instrumentally and vocally. They could pride themselves on such success stories as the careers of Leopold Simoneau, one of the most elegant Mozart tenors of the century, and his wife Pierrette Alarie, a singer of charm and taste who recalled the artistry of an earlier supernova, Elisabeth Schumann. Both made important recordings that are still admired by collectors and vocal specialists the world over.

Lois Marshall achieved an important recording and recital career in major centres in Europe, and George London appeared on operatic stages there and in North America during the same period.

Canadians by the score moved south and across the Atlantic to make careers in the United States and Europe. Tenors André Turp and Richard Verreault, bass Joseph Rouleau, who is still singing actively, mezzo-soprano Huguette Tourangeau and baritone Louis Quilico all carried the Canadian flag far afield. Quilico, who now teaches in Toronto, has a son Gino, who has also developed an illustrious career as a baritone in Paris, London and New York.



Jean Blais

And, of course, there was the late, inimitable Glenn Gould, who set his own course through musical history and influenced even more people through his recordings than he did through his live performances.

For a while, the music scene seemed to cool despite abundant financial assistance from municipal, provincial and federal arts councils. In the 1980s, however, the situation took a turn for the better, and the 1990s look even more exciting for Canadian talent abroad.

Louis Lortie: one of a new generation of outstanding Canadian pianists.

Best French Orchestra

This bright outlook results in part from the success of the spate of recordings by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra which, under the baton of Swiss-born Charles Dutoit, has made the world aware once again that Canada is

more than a country that exports timber and hydro-electric power.

Under Dutoit's baton, the Montreal Symphony has been described as "the best French orchestra in the world." The ensemble keeps its name before the record-buying and concert-going public by touring constantly, internationally.

It has also served the cause of Canadian soloists by featuring them on these tours and making new audiences aware of other talents in this country.