

News of the arts

Arts centre receives funding

The federal government has allocated \$475,000 to assist in covering the cost of repairs and renovations to the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

The grant represents the federal contribution for 1980-81 towards the final phase of the repair and renovation project. The government of Prince Edward Island is also contributing a portion of the total project cost.

In 1977, a program of major repairs and renovations to the Confederation Centre of the Arts was recommended by the Department of the Secretary of State. To date, the federal government has contributed a total of \$2,025,000 towards the repair and renovation project.

Poets gather in Toronto

Poets from 12 countries participated in the International Poetry Festival held at Harbourfront in Toronto last month.

The festival, according to Henry Beissel, president of the League of Canadian Poets which sponsored the event, was intended "to give Canadians a chance to hear some of the best poetry written in the world today".

Beissel, who was the leading force behind the festival which took one-and-a-half years to plan, said it was to be "a celebration of those commitments of poets everywhere dedicated to all that is joyous and creative in the human spirit. The tongues of poets differ, but their voices blend in a common humanity seeking a better future for all".

At the festival's opening, Irish poet John Montague read with Canada's Margaret Atwood and Horst Bienek from Germany. Other Canadian poets who had readings were: Al Purdy, Earle Birney, Gwendolyn MacEwan, Gilles Henault, Patrick Lane and Jacques Brault. Poets from abroad, who participated in the festival, were: Hans ten Berge (the Netherlands), Elaine Feinstein (England), Stratis Haviaras (Greece), Henry Mecshonnic (France), George Faludy (Hungary), Wang Xin-Di (China), Enrique Lihn (Chile), Edwin Morgan (Scotland), C.K. Stead (New Zealand), Carlos Germas Belli (Peru) Edoardo Sanguineti (Italy), Denise Levertov (United States) and Miroslav Holub (Czechoslovakia).

A discussion on poetry and poetics was also presented along with a showcase of Canadian poets. Forums included: poetry in translation, poetry in South America, post modernism in poetry, and poetry and science.

The festival received support from the Canada Council, the Ontario Arts Council, the Secretary of State and the Department of External Affairs.

Festival Ottawa's eleventh season

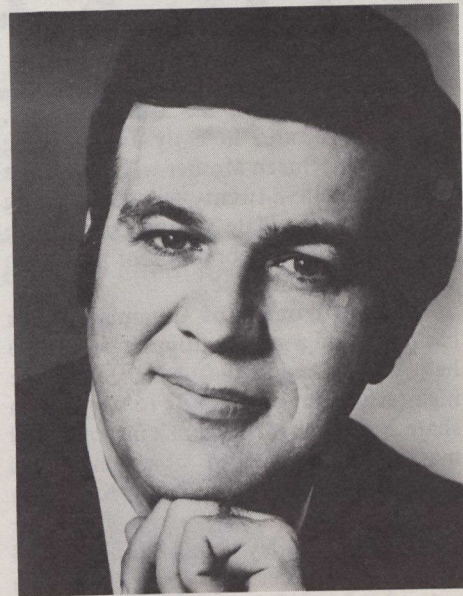
A spectacular new production of Mozart's rarely-performed opera *Idomeneo* and a salute to Béla Bartók on the centennial of the great composer's birth are two of the highlights of Festival Ottawa to be held July 4-29.

The month-long festival, in its eleventh consecutive season, will include the Canadian *première* of *Idomeneo* directed by Vaclav Kašlik and with set design by Josef Svoboda. This production is the only one in existence in North America at this time. The four performances will star George Shirley, Benita Valente and Pauline Tinsley.

There will also be five performances of Verdi's *Rigoletto*, featuring Neil Shicoff, Louis Quilico and Ruth Welting, and three performances of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, starring John York Skinner, Norma Burrowes and John Stewart. All three operas will be staged in the 2,300-seat opera house of Ottawa's National Arts Centre (NAC), as



A scene from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



Louis Quilico

will a concert program of two one-act operas by Mozart, *Bastien et Bastienne* and *The Impresario*.

Concurrently, in the NAC's 900-seat theatre, a chamber music series will spotlight artists from around the world: Canada's Orford Quartet, Hungary's New Budapest Quartet, Japan's Tokyo Quartet, French pianists Jean-Philippe Collard and Michel Béroff, the U.S. Emerson Quartet and Czechoslovakia's Prague Quartet.

Bartók program

The various ensembles will perform all six of Bartók's string quartets, while Collard and Béroff will interpret the composer's unique Sonata for two pianos and percussion. Experts including Béla Bartók Jr. and the head archivists of the Bartók Archives and the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest, as well as Maryvonne Kendergi of the University of Montreal, will deliver a series of free public lectures on the master, and the Hungarian folkloric ensemble Sebő will illustrate some of the popular themes used in Bartók's music.

An exhibit of Bartók manuscripts and other memorabilia will be held in the National Arts Centre during the festival and the Centre's Restaurant will feature the food of Hungary as well as that of Mozart's Austria, Verdi's Italy and Britten's England.

Detailed information about Festival Ottawa 1981 is available at Canadian embassies, consulates and tourist offices around the world and may also be obtained by writing to Festival Ottawa, National Arts Centre, Ottawa K1P 5W1.