

Following this, the Department supported a week of similar musical events in Germany in cooperation with the Composers, Authors and Publishers Association of Canada. Reactions to Musicanada were mixed. Although it was generally agreed that much more might have been done to promote and publicize this imaginative idea abroad, many critics and officials from other countries applauded Canada's courage in attempting to make its composers better known in Europe in such a bold and forthright manner. Several openly admitted that their governments would not have the courage to attempt a week-long exposure of their composers abroad, despite the fact that European musical traditions are much longer and better known than those of Canada.

The second event which deserves special mention was the unique exchange arrangement with the People's Republic of China in the performing arts mentioned earlier in this publication. Under this arrangement, the Toronto Symphony and the Canadian Brass toured the People's Republic of China. In return, the Shanghai Ballet Company and the Shenyang Acrobatic Troupe toured Canada. The response to these tours in the two countries was phenomenal to say the least - far beyond what most officials expected. As indicated earlier, these tours turned out to be not only exciting tours by four incredible performing arts groups, but also diplomatic investments of the greatest possible value.

As with the performing arts, Canada's visual arts are also well-represented abroad. Not only does the Department of External Affairs provide financial support for specially-assembled collections of original artworks, but also it circulates its own collections. With respect to the former, each year, one or two major exhibitions are organized through loans from public and private galleries in Canada and sent to major museums and galleries abroad. Some of these exhibitions fulfill exchange agreements with other countries. With respect to the latter, the Department now owns about a dozen collections of its own, ranging from Inuit sculpture and prints to tapestries and thematic shows of graphic arts. These exhibitions - which are selected by professional experts - circulate throughout the world on a regular basis, not only to museums and galleries abroad, but also to Canadian missions and cultural centres with the appropriate display facilities.

In 1977 and early 1978, the visual arts were highlighted by the launching of "Canadian Contemporary Painters." This unique exhibition, which incorporated 21 canvases featuring works by 7 leading Canadian artists, was drawn from the Art Bank of the Canada Council. Following its opening at the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris and a four-month tour of galleries in Australia and New Zealand, it travelled to many other parts of the world. The ever-popular "Group of Seven" - an exhibition of 44 paintings from the McMichael Canadian collection - continued its international circuit to such places as Great Britain, Germany and Russia under the joint sponsorship of the Department of External Affairs, the Province of Ontario and Air Canada. In addition, works by six Canadian artists were exhibited in Belgrade following the United Nations Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Department also assisted in sending a number of special collections abroad, such as the H.J. Warre collection of historical material from the Public Archives, and "Links to Tradition" - a collection of contemporary native art assembled by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development which was sent to Brazil. Finally, the Department helped individual artists and private galleries to participate in the Paris Biennale as well as the Basel and Bologne art fairs.