

Film captures opera stars' visit to China

Contralto Maureen Forrester, bass-baritone Claude Corbeil and piano accompanist Claude Savard are featured in a new one-hour production *Singing: A Joy In Any Language*, telecast recently on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) television network.

The film, directed by Malca Gillson and Tony Ianzelo, records a 1982 visit to China by these three top Canadian performers. During their two-week tour of the Peking, Shenyang and Harbin music conservatories, they gave public concerts and held master classes in singing for Chinese students.

While the students were given a chance to learn European opera, the three visitors were introduced to the unique 800-year-old traditional Peking Opera. Despite linguistic and cultural differences, the Canadians and Chinese both experienced the mutual pleasure of learning about each other's culture and songs.

The visitors, like orchestra conductors, use graphic gestures, facial expressions, and humour to coach the students in voice control, breathing techniques and stage presence. They do their best to explain the subtleties of Western culture —



Maureen Forrester (centre) pauses with Claude Corbeil (right) and Claude Savard during their recent tour of China. The three Canadian performers are featured in a new one-hour television production.



Canadian contralto Maureen Forrester holding a master class in singing for Chinese students.

no easy task as Mr. Corbeil discovered when he tried to teach a shy tenor how to interpret the part of an Italian lover.

In *Singing: A Joy In Any Language* viewers see some of the famous sights of China, observe the exceptional calibre of young Chinese singers and enjoy the Canadian performers' concert rendition of Mr. Rossini's *The Cat Duet*.

The film was produced by the National Film Board of Canada, in association with the CBC and the Department of External Affairs.

Elizabeth Smart papers acquired by National Library

The National Library of Canada has added to its Literary Manuscripts Collection some early materials written by the Canadian writer Elizabeth Smart. The collection includes 30 notebooks written between 1929 and 1941, plus worksheets, manuscripts and correspondence with the British poet George Barker.

Born in Ottawa in 1913, Elizabeth Smart lived in England for more than four decades. Her first work, *By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept*, caused a sensation when it appeared in 1945. Though it was highly regarded by writers of the Fifties, it was not printed in Canada until 1981. An early manuscript version of this work is included

with the material acquired.

Elizabeth Smart's most recent publications are *A Bonus* (1977) and *The Assumption of the Rogues and Rascals* (1978). She returned to Canada in 1982 as writer-in-residence at the University of Alberta, Edmonton and now resides in Toronto.

Moore resigns as Council head

Canada Council chairman Mavor Moore has announced his resignation after four years in the position.

Mr. Moore, 64, a playwright, actor, producer, critic and professor praised as an unrelenting advocate for the Canadian arts, stepped down at the end of September.

Mr. Moore served as chairman of the Council during a stormy time, while it faced government cuts. This year, the arts-funding body will hand out \$63.3 million.

Winner of three Peabody radio awards, involved in dozens of plays and producer-director of the acclaimed *Spring Thaw* revue, Mr. Moore has devoted his life to the Canadian arts in a way many said was unparalleled.

In a prepared statement read on his retirement, Mr. Moore said, "My most profound hope as outgoing chairman of the Canada Council is that we shall continue to grow in awareness that there is more to a society's strength than economic sufficiency or military prowess, and that in the long run our most rewarding investment will be in our human resources."



Mavor Moore