

### Canadian music featured during World Music Week

The Canadian Music Council, which was recently host to the sixteenth general assembly of the International Music Council, was responsible for many events to celebrate World Music Week, held in conjunction with the IMC meetings. Delegates from over 50 countries were in Canada from September 26 to October 5 attending conferences and concerts in five cities: Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec.

Delegates attended 25 musical events and various seminars. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, The International Music Centre of Vienna and the American-Canadian Music Critics' Association sponsored discussion groups on subjects relating to music as a dimension of life, music education and audience development, the broadcasting and recording industries and noise pollution. All the concerts included works by Canadian composers, with many pieces specially commissioned for World Music Week. Most performances were recorded by the CBC and are scheduled for international broadcast. A film, *Musi-Canada*, by the National Film Board, and several exhibitions of Canadian musical artifacts drew further attention to the role of music in Canadian life.

The executive committee of the International Music Council held preliminary meetings in Calgary, Alberta, September 24 and 25. In the opening IMC concert, contralto Maureen Forrester performed an all-Canadian program, including the première of *Three Métis Songs from Saskatchewan* by Malcolm Forsyth, commissioned by the CBC.

For the next three days, special sessions were held in Toronto to discuss music on radio and on record, and music through the visual media of television and film.

The general assembly of the International Music Council opened on September 27 with an address by retiring president Yehudi Menuhin. That evening members attended a performance of the Canadian music drama *Louis Riel* by Harry Somers, produced by the Canadian Opera Company. Several other concerts followed.

World Music Week began September



*The seagull dance from Breath of our Grandfathers, a stage version of a 2,000-year ceremony of investiture of a new chief, performed by 'Ksan singers and dancers from British Columbia. A special presentation, arranged by the National Museum of Man, was performed at the National Arts Centre, for World Music Week delegates from over 50 countries.*

29. Following a recital by organist Hugh McLean, the Council met for a special session with addresses by Mitchell Sharp, President of the Privy Council, representing the Canadian Government, Laurence Harold Cragg, President, Canadian Commission for UNESCO, Alexandre Blokh, Cultural Development Division of UNESCO, and International Music Council president Yehudi Menuhin.

The next day, the Council moved to Ottawa, where seminars on the role of the media in music continued. An extraordinary illustration of the ritual and music of Canada's West Coast Indians, *The Breath of our Grandfathers* was presented that evening at the National Arts Centre by the people of 'Ksan. 'Ksan represents an Indian village and the performance tells of a way of life 100 years ago.

#### Menuhin concert

October 1 was the first World Music Day. Events in Canada were echoed

by musical events around the world, including 24 hours of music in the streets in Madras. Retiring IMC president Yehudi Menuhin gave a violin concert before a distinguished audience including Prime Minister Trudeau and Governor-General Jules Léger. Mr. Trudeau presented IMC awards to Menuhin, to Ravi Shankar and, posthumously, to Dmitri Shostakovich in appreciation of their contribution to music. The world première of *Portrait imaginé* by Luis de Pablo was presented that afternoon by the University of Ottawa Music Department. In the evening, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, under Mario Bernardi, opened their 1975-76 season with a gala concert featuring two new works: *Overture* by André Prévost and *Spiral* by Robert Aitken.

Other events followed in Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec City, where delegates attended a folk-music recital by Edith Butler and Felix Leclerc on October 4.

The Montreal Symphony Orchestra, under its new conductor Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, performed the final concert of World Music Week on October 5.

#### Canadian music compliment

In a parting interview, Yehudi Menuhin made a special point of praising the Canadian music he had heard during World Music Week. "The Canadian attachment to nature is revealed in an ability to listen to the sounds and silences around him...this sensitivity to natural sounds is a quality that permeated all the music I've heard. I have met many Canadians in many parts of the world, but I have never met any one who bragged about their music education, chamber music or anything else about music achievements. Canadians have every reason to feel proud of their level of music-making."

The next IMC assembly will be held in Czechoslovakia in 1977 under the new executive: Narayana Menon of India, President; Egon Kraus, Germany, John Roberts, Canada and Tibor Sarai, Hungary, Vice-Presidents.

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