

News of the arts

Canadian contemporary music series in Europe

Musicanada, the first all-Canadian music festival to be held in Europe, which takes place in London and Paris this month, presents a panorama of music written by living Canadian composers over the past 20 years, performed by major Canadian ensembles and soloists.

Although many of the recent works will have their European *premières* during the festival, the pieces have all been performed in Canada and many of them have been recorded.

In London, the concerts will take place at St. John's Smith Square from November 4 to 15. In Paris, Musicanada events will be heard at Salle Gaveau from November 9 to 17, with the finale concert held at the Grand Auditorium of Radio France.

European audiences may recognize some of the Canadian compositions in Musicanada, having heard them performed by Canadian groups on tour, and by British and French ensembles. The BBC has included Canadian works in radio concerts in the past, and during the last season, Radio France broadcast an extensive series of music by Canadian contemporary composers.

The ensembles are representative of the best musical talent in Canada:

The performers

The Orford String Quartet was awarded the European Broadcasting Union top prize in 1974 and has performed in France at the Festival du Marais, the Paris Festival Estival, at the 1976 May Festival in Bordeaux, and last March, in the Radio France chamber music series. In Britain, the group, pictured below, was heard in a BBC broadcast in 1975.



The Canadian Brass, who were heard in Paris in the 1975 Festival Estival, recently toured the People's Republic of China on a cultural exchange sponsored by the Canadian and Chinese Governments.

The *Société de Musique Contemporaine du Québec*, considered to be one of Canada's foremost contemporary music ensembles, and already well known in Europe, will be conducted by its founder and director, Serge Garant.

The *Festival Singers*, known internationally, were awarded the silver medal of the City of Paris in 1973 to commemorate their participation in the Festival Estival.

The *Quintette à Vent du Québec*, the youngest of the musical ensembles to appear in Musicanada, is now one of the most popular concert performing groups in Canada. This will be their European *début*.

Mario Bernardi, music director of the National Arts Centre Orchestra of Ottawa, will direct the BBC Symphony Orchestra in the opening concert of Musicanada in London. Guest soloist performing the Jacques Hétu *Concerto For Piano and Orchestra* will be Robert Silverman from Vancouver who has won major prizes in the Rio de Janeiro, Van Cliburn, Busoni and Viana da Motto international competitions.

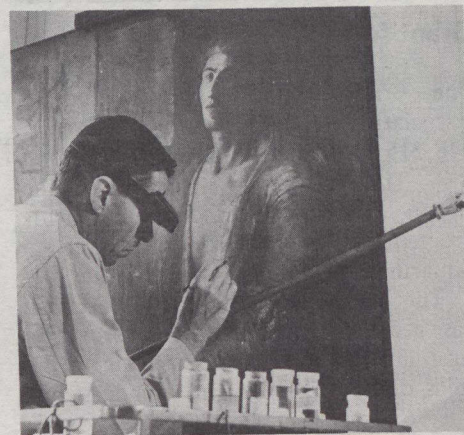
As the final event in Paris, Pierre Hétu, music director of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, will conduct the Nouvel Orchestre Philharmonique et Radio-France. Victor Bouchard and Renée Morissett, piano duo from Quebec, will perform Roger Matton's *Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra*, composed especially for them. Composer and conductor, Gilles Tremblay, will conduct the European *première* of his work *Jeux de Solstice*.

Musicanada is an initiative of the Canada Council in co-operation with the Department of External Affairs.

Exhibition salutes Ruggles

A current exhibition *Conservation of Works of Art at the National Gallery of Canada* is a special showing of some of the important paintings that have been restored by the former head of the Gallery's Restoration and Conservation Laboratory, Mervyn Ruggles, prior to his departure in August.

Mr. Ruggles' 39-year career at the Gallery and his wide experience in restora-



Ruggles at work

tion work, have won him recognition at numerous international and national research institutions. Mervyn Ruggles has long been concerned with chemical research in the treatment of rare works of art and has investigated methods into the causes of their deterioration.

He has lectured and has contributed to various publications such as *Art and Archaeology Technical Abstracts*, as well as visiting major art research laboratories in Europe. He was also appointed chief conservator at Man and His World Fine Arts Gallery, Expo 67, Montreal.

In honour of his work, the Gallery exhibition includes, among other famous paintings, Rembrandt's *The Toilet of Esther or Bathsheba*, Vouet's *The Fortune Teller*, Sir Joshua Reynolds's *Colonel Churchill*, F.H. Varley's *Portrait of Samuel J.B. Varley*, J. Bradley's *Portrait of a Lady* and A. Ramsay's painting *Mrs. Lindesay of Eaglescarnie*.

Mr. Ruggles is currently teaching art conservation as a visiting professor at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

Franca to teach in China

Celia Franca, retired founder of the National Ballet of Canada, recently accepted an invitation to give ballet lessons in the People's Republic of China for three weeks next spring. When the Shanghai Ballet was in Toronto earlier this year, Miss Franca observed their classes.

The invitation was made through the touring office of the Canada Council. "It's a tremendous honour and I think it's wonderful that a Canadian has been asked," said Miss Franca, who retired from the National Ballet two years ago after founding the company in 1951.