

## Song places first

Two Canadian song writers, Tim Thorney and Lisa Dal Bello of Toronto, won the \$10 000 best song award at the American Song Festival in Los Angeles, January 16.

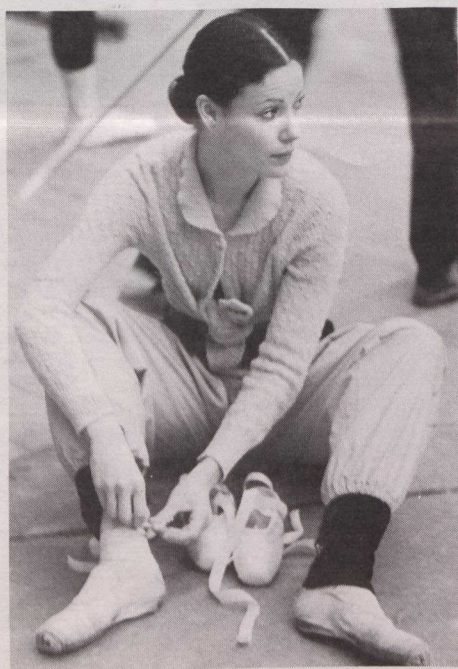
The competition, which attracted more than 30 000 entrants, is divided into five categories — top 40, classical, jazz, country and adult contemporary. *Can I Do It*, with music by Mr. Thorney and lyrics by Miss Dal Bello, first won in the top 40 category before winning the over-all best song. The song writers are the first Canadians to win the contest.

## Dancer Karen Kain to marry

Karen Kain, Canada's most famous ballerina, is getting married. Miss Kain, 31, principal ballerina with the National Ballet of Canada, and actor Ross Petty, 36, are planning a wedding in May.

Mr. Petty, who was born in Winnipeg, has appeared in theatre, film and television in New York and London. His best-known role in Canada was as the star of *Sweeney Todd*, the Harold Prince-Stephen Sondheim musical, which played at Toronto's Royal Alexandra Theatre.

Miss Kain has been the National's most popular dancer for several years, as well as dancing throughout the world, chiefly with Roland Petit's Ballet de Marseilles. This is the first marriage for both. They will be making their home in Toronto.



Karen Kain

## Amish play wins laurels

*Quiet in the Land* by playwright Anne Chislett of Victoria, British Columbia, has won the \$5 000 Chalmers Canadian Play Award as best new play of 1983.

The play, which opened to popular acclaim at the Toronto Free Theatre this fall, was originally written for the Blyth Summer Festival. It is set in an Ontario Amish community at the time of the First World War.

The two runner-up plays, which received \$1 500 each, were John Lazarus' *Dreaming and Duelling*, and Tom Walmsley's *White Boys*. Both Lazarus and Walmsley are Vancouver writers.

This year's special achievement award went to Tom Hendry, a co-founder of the Manitoba Theatre Centre and Toronto Free Theatre. Mr. Hendry resigned last spring as producer of the Free Theatre.

The first Chalmers Children's Play Award was awarded jointly to Marcel Sabourin for *Pleurer pour Rire*, and Robert Morgan for *How I Wonder What You Are*. Both were presented during the International Children's Festival at Harbourfront.

## New young cellist celebrity

At the age of 17, Toronto cellist Orfa Harnoy is one of Canada's five or six most sought-after instrumental soloists.

In 1981, she was simply a "rumour" making the rounds of Toronto's musical society. In 1983, she is an authentic celebrity, with a positive *New York Times* review behind her, a tour of France sponsored by Canada's Jeunesses Musicales ahead of her, more concert requests than she can handle and a New York manager to deal with the ones she can.

As a sign of Miss Harnoy's increasing command over her own career, she is aware that she must avoid what does not work for her. It was a lesson she learned from last year's New York Concert Artists Guild competition, which drew contestants from all over the world.

"When I first went to the competition, people told me, 'Well, you made it in Canada, but when you go to the States, your playing will not be accepted there.' I went there and played completely 'me'. Obviously, people liked it, so I kept doing that."

Harnoy went on to become the youngest first-prize winner in the 31-year



Orfa Harnoy

history of the competition. The win entitled her to two New York appearances, one with an orchestra in Carnegie Hall, and the other on her own in the recital chamber of that prestigious structure.

The excellent *New York Times* response to the solo concert has already brought queries from orchestra managers across the United States, where most of her engagements for next season will be. But she regards herself as Canadian and does not foresee abandoning Toronto as her home base.

## Arts briefs

The National Film Board is collaborating with the United Nations in its campaign to improve water supply and sanitary facilities in developing countries. Producer George Pearson and film director Doug Cameron are exploring film possibilities and potential filming sites in Africa for four films to be made for the United Nations "International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade".

Canadian poet and novelist, Margaret Atwood, was awarded the 1983 Welsh Arts Council's prestigious International Writer's Prize which recognizes outstanding achievement in contemporary literature. Former winners of the prize — worth £1 000 — have included Eugene Ionesco and Friedrich Durrenmatt. Since 1970 Miss Atwood has made her home in Toronto, the setting for much of her writing.