

# Stangeland solos at symphony Exhibit current art

By The Gateway's Music Critic

Robert Stangeland of the U of A's music division was featured at the Sunday afternoon concert of the Edmonton Symphony. The guest conductor was John Avison of the CBC Vancouver Symphony.

The concert consisted of three large works, Haydn's Symphony No. 95 in C minor, Beethoven's fifth piano concerto and A London Symphony by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

It was a change for the better to have an Edmonton resident as the guest soloist and a good chance to give some long overdue recognition to an excellent local pianist.

Stangeland, who is at his best with the romantic composers, played the well-known Emperor concerto. He played in his free and dependable way without trying to give the concerto any new and ingenious interpretation.

The Haydn Symphony was quite enjoyable and got the concert off to a good start. Conductor Avison seemed to have good control over the orchestra which appears to be getting adept at adapting to strange conductors.

Probably the most controversial piece of the three was the London Symphony. This is a descriptive work, lacking a unifying theme but nevertheless most interesting and never dull.

As far as the orchestra is concerned the french horns were unusually well behaved although still far from perfect. Some of the best solo work, aside from that of the guest artist, was done in the solo violin, oboe and english horn chairs.

By Don Phillipson

Until next Wednesday, an exhibition of paintings by Art McKay will be open in the Music Room in the Library. The most exciting show on campus so far this year, it should not be missed. The paintings will delight the culture-vultures and dismay the philistines, but people who take an honest interest in art should not be put off; there are at least five excellent paintings to be seen.

McKay says himself: "These paintings do not refer to conditions or things in the objective world." Like that of many painters today, his art is about art and nothing else. His 20 paintings exist as paintings and not as pictures of anything; they neither delight nor instruct—but they certainly move.

Not many students, however, are mentally disposed towards accepting completely non-objective art. Even if abstracted to a great degree, a painting should be a painting of something, they think. But this is a great mistake. Not all paintings are pictures, nor should they be. Indeed, that quality which marks great art is not the picturing of anything. It is a solely artistic quality,

intrinsic and internal to a painting, with no reference to any object outside it. A painting may be a picture of something, but is never essentially so.

### ART, NOT PAINTING

No one expects music to represent anything. True, a few pieces (e.g. "Till Eulenspiegel") are representational, but they are rare. No one can find any referent in life for the music and musical forms in "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik", nor is one expected to.

But this does not detract from the music's valid existence as a piece of music, nor from our enjoyment of it. It is the same with McKay's art; his work is not pictures but paintings—and paintings of high quality.

### THE BEST

No. 17, one of the largest, is easily the finest on exhibition. In it, three very simple—by themselves dull—colours are fused into an intense and exciting complexity. As in most of McKay's work there is a vaguely-suggested underlying formal structure, but it is entirely subordinated to a blossoming into vibrant life. One of the most striking effects of this life and complexity is that, while every part is autonomous, the painting remains a self-sustaining whole. As has been said, it sets out to be nothing but a painting, and it succeeds excellently.

McKay is so austere in his choice of materials that he is bound to fail sometimes, and some of his failures are here.

In No. 12, for example, the observer needs more of a visual anchor than the Japanese scattering of shapes allows. But visitors to the exhibition should take notice rather of the success—in particular, Nos. 1, 13, 15, 16 and 17.

In the catalogue will be found a large number of aphoristic "Statements of my Art." These are evidence that a good artist is more at home with a brush than with words, and will probably only confuse. Of more interest are the photo-reproductions of two paintings, which show clearly that McKay has much more to give us than the camera can perceive.

## Calgary Separate School Board

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### PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS

are invited to interview Mr. J. V. Van Tighem, Assistant Superintendent, who will be in Edmonton for January 26th. Appointments may be made through the

University Branch,  
National Employment Services,  
Main Floor,  
Administration Building

## Pratt performs chamberwise

Ross Pratt, internationally known Canadian musician, will be conducting chamber music coaching sessions at the university Jan. 22, 23, and 24. The sessions will conclude with an evening recital devoted to a

performance of piano chamber music in which Pratt will be assisted by a group of Edmonton musicians.

Born in Winnipeg, Pratt early showed exceptional musical ability when he was an unflinching first prize winner in competitive festivals.

In 1933 he won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music in London, where he studied five years. His student debut as a recitalist won him the praise of London critics.

On his return to North America, Pratt went on to win the acclaim of Canadians through a series of tours and broadcasts for the CBC.

Subsequent engagements in USA were equally successful. The New York Times referred to him as "one of the most talented of the younger generation of keyboard artists."

Pratt's public appearances have taken him to many parts of the world. In Britain he has given first performances of works by such composers as Arnell, Milhaud, and Prokofiev, as well as playing for the BBC abroad, he has introduced his audiences to contemporary composers such as Ireland and Arthur Benjamin.

## Train for a Career With a Future



Here are four interesting and rewarding plans for young men interested in a career as a commissioned officer in the Canadian Army:



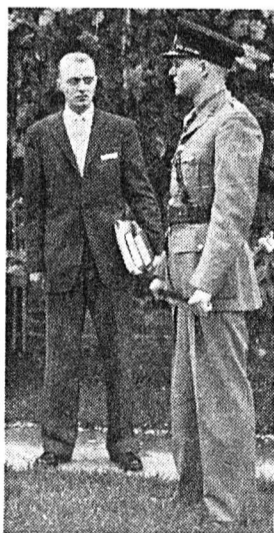
**SUBSIDIZATION FOR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**—There are tri-Service plans wherein university students in medicine or dentistry can be subsidized during their course and become commissioned Doctors or Dentists in the Canadian Armed Forces.



**THE REGULAR OFFICER TRAINING PLAN**—This is a tri-Service Plan wherein high school graduates receive advanced education and leadership training at one of the Canadian Service Colleges or a university to become officers in the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army or the Royal Canadian Air Force.



**THE CANADIAN OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS**—University undergraduates may obtain a commission by training during their spare time and summer holidays. The student who trains under this plan is paid for his actual training time and is not obligated for full-time service after graduation.



**THE OFFICER CANDIDATE PROGRAMME**—Selected high school graduates, not wishing to undergo academic training for a degree, may qualify as a short service officer after a brief intensive period of military training and later may apply to become a regular officer.

You may obtain full information on any of these plans from your University Army Resident Staff Officer.

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