

The works of Canadian composers are heard frequently on CBC networks, often featured by themselves in special programs. The CBC International Service, operated on behalf of the government, made a notable contribution to Canadian musical life in producing the first album of records of Canadian music. Their use in shortwave broadcasts to other countries is making the work of Canadian composers known abroad, and the album has also been presented on CBC domestic networks.

The first full-length Canadian opera -- "Deirdre of the Sorrows" -- was commissioned by the CBC and presented to listeners coast to coast during the 1945-46 season. A shorter ballad opera, "Transit Through Fire," was commissioned and produced in the 1941-42 season. Both were the work of composer Healey Willan and author John Coulter.

In the following year, 29 newly-composed musical scores were presented on the French network. The world famous harpsichordist, Mme. Wanda Landowska, was invited to Canada by the CBC, for the presentation of newly-discovered concertos by Carl Philip Emmanuel Bach, many of them being heard for the first time on the air.

The 1943-44 season saw the complete piano works of Chopin performed by Canadian pianists in 25 weekly recitals. The narrative poem "Brebeuf and his Brethren" by E. J. Pratt, with special music by Healey Willan, was commissioned and produced by the CBC.

The latest commissioned work to be given its first performance is "From Sea to Sea," a suite in five movements by the young Canadian composer Alexander Brott, written for the CBC International Service which is now broadcasting to the world in ten languages. Distinctively Canadian in character, the Brott suite is music descriptive of the ethnic and cultural make-up of Canada's population, and of the sweeping breadths of the Dominion. First performed in November 1947 by a CBC symphony orchestra conducted by the composer, the suite was heard on the CBC Trans-Canada and French networks, broadcast by the International Service, and carried simultaneously on the domestic networks in Mexico as a tribute to UNESCO, which was then in session in Mexico City.

World premiere performances arranged by the CBC International Service have included the "Alberto Concerto," a new work by the Canadian composer Minuetta Borek, and the First Symphony by the French-Canadian composer Claude Champagne.

In order to foster an appreciation of Canadian music outside, as well as in Canada, the CBC International Service has recorded five albums of Canadian music. The first album, containing "Suite Canadienne," by Claude Champagne and Dr. Healey Willan's "Concerto in C Minor," has already been distributed (free) to Canadian embassies and legations abroad for foreign radio stations, conservatories etc., and to a limited list in Canada, including all CBC stations. The International Service has also recorded and partly distributed a series of eighteen recordings of Canadian folk music by the La Cantoria choir of Montreal, directed by Victor Brault.

Both the International Service and the domestic service of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation have consistently followed a policy of encouraging Canadian musicians. In any large production