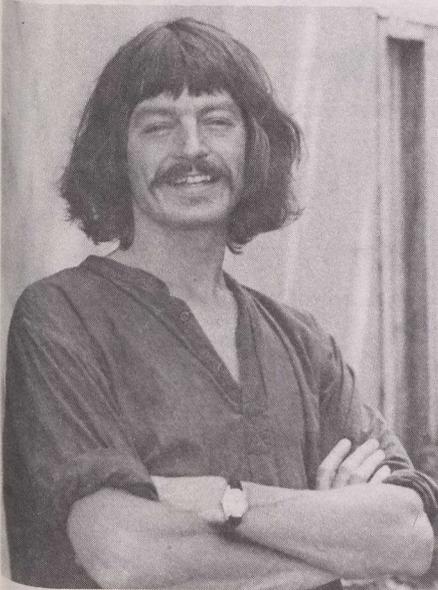


Léger music award

Composer and saxophonist Walter Boudreau of Montreal recently won the 1982 Jules Léger Prize for new chamber music, for a composition for eight brass instruments, *L'Odysée du Soleil*.



Walter Boudreau

The prize was initiated in 1978 by the late Governor General Jules Léger to encourage chamber music composition and performance. It includes a sculpture by Louis Archambault of Montreal and \$5 000 from the Canada Council.

Mr. Boudreau received the prize at a special concert at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa on November 21, when he conducted the Ensemble de cuivres Ville-Marie in a performance of his work.

Also included in the program, on the recommendation of the Canada Council, was a performance by the Purcell Quartet of Vancouver playing *Quartet No. 2* by Francis Chan of the University of Toronto.

Toronto Symphony to tour Europe

The Toronto Symphony Orchestra will embark on its first European tour in nine years in February.

The orchestra will visit 17 cities in seven countries and give 20 concerts between February 27 to March 25. The tour includes performances in England, Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria, the Netherlands and Czechoslovakia.

In Birmingham, England, Amsterdam and Vienna, the national radio service will broadcast the symphony's concert.

Embassy uncovers large mural

After being hidden by paint and plaster for 30 years, a mural in the French embassy in Ottawa is being uncovered and restored.

The mural by French surrealist artist Alfred Courmes is being restored by Jean-Paul Ledeur and assistants Renata Walter and Patrice Rivaud, in collaboration with the 84-year-old artist.

Country and town scenes

The enormous wax painting completely covers the dining room walls in the French embassy and depicts lively scenes of picnickers in the countryside, a parade through a town square, including horses and the lush scenery of southern France.

Alfred Courmes was commissioned by the government of France to paint the walls at the embassy in Ottawa when it was built in 1936. He started the work in 1938 using the ancient technique of mixing wax with colour pigments. He felt that would stand up better than oil paint in Canada's climate.

Mr. Courmes spent nearly two years working on the 120-square-metre painting, called *Happy France*, using many of his Canadian friends as models for some of



Jean-Paul Ledeur restores French mural.

the 225 figures represented in the work.

The mural began to deteriorate soon after its completion and experts speculate it was because the plaster walls were not quite dry when the painting was being made. The French government decided not to restore the work after the war, and the painting was covered with a protective layer of paint and a false white canvas wall erected to support other paintings and tapestries. Although the existence of the covered mural was common knowledge, it was only recently that the French government began the restoration.

Pavorotti delights audience and rescues Montreal Symphony

Renowned tenor and master performer, Luciano Pavorotti, sang at a benefit for the Montreal Symphony in November and helped wipe out the orchestra's deficit. Pavorotti attracted some 15 000 people and the concert grossed nearly half a million dollars.

Pavorotti began rather shakily and appeared to have a "frog in his throat" during most of the evening but his unique stage presence and engaging personality completely won over the audience. He received a standing ovation when he walked on stage to sing his first song and after the last of his scheduled selections, the crowd rose again to applaud him.

Scots fellowship to Canadian writer

Brian Moore has been named by the Scottish Arts Council as the 1983 winner of an important Scots literary award, the Neil Gunn International Fellowship.

The fellowship, named after the Scots novelist who died in 1973, is valued at £3 000.

Mr. Moore, who was born in Belfast in 1921, emigrated to Canada after the Second World War. He became established as a novelist during the mid-1950s with the publication of *The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne*.

Since then, he has published a number of novels, stories and film scripts and has achieved international distinction as a writer of compassionate studies of society's misfits. Two of his novels, *The Luck of Ginger Coffey* and *Catholics* have been made into films, and critical studies of his work have appeared in leading journals around the world.