

Canadian tenor Jon Vickers looks on as Renata Scotto receives a floral tribute following their duet from Otello at a United Nations Day concert in New York. (UN PHOTO 148 167/saw Iwin)

Canadian singers, however, have sallied forth to reap international applause. Emma Albani (1847-1930), Edward Johnson (1878-1959), and Raoul Jobin (1906-74) have sung in all the great opera houses and festivals. Jon Vickers (1926), Louis Quilico (1925), Teresa Stratas (1938) and Maureen Forrester (1930) are more often heard abroad than in Canada. Younger singers on their way up include Claude Corbeil (1940), Nicole Lorange (1942), Allan Monk (1942) and Heather Thomson (1940).

Cities from Victoria to Quebec City enjoy opera seasons. Yet, only Toronto's Canadian Opera Company has resident singers, enabling it to stage activities parallel to its main season and to take special productions to smaller centres. However, L'Opéra de Montréal has an opera workshop which should provide it with a core company.

The companies offer three to seven different productions annually. In addition, Vancouver's Opera Piccola Canada, a training company, tours its chamber operas. The Guelph Spring Festival always features a chamber opera, either specially commissioned or else one relatively new to the repertoire. Comus Music Theatre in Toronto specializes in the presentation of new works, as does the Music Theatre Workshop at the Banff Centre School of Fine Arts.