



CANADIAN *MUSIC* IN WARTIME

Produced for NBC Inter-American University of the Air
Heard in Canada on CBC Trans-Canada and French Networks
Thursday evenings, Aug. 17 to Oct. 5, 11.30 p.m. EDT



JEAN BEAUDET

Canadian Music in Wartime

• It is an interesting question as to whether the war has impeded or stimulated the production of musical works. In Russia, musical production has increased, the new works of Shostakovich serving as an excellent example; however, it is debatable as to whether this is due to the war.

In Canada in the past few years, a greater number of worthwhile musical works have been written than ever before, and the series to be given will include eight works that are being performed for the first time. Two compositions to be heard have been inspired by the war, namely, "War and Peace," by Alexander Brott, and "Canadian Forest," by Maurice Blackburn, and the remainder owe their inspiration to other sources.

These programmes have been arranged at the request of Gilbert W. Chase of the National Broadcasting Company's public service department. They are to be a part of NBC Inter-American University of the Air 1944 summer series: "Music of the New World." The Canadian broadcasts have been prepared by Jean Beaudet, CBC supervisor of music, who will conduct all but the Sept. 21 programme. On that occasion Arthur Benjamin will be guest conductor.

NBC Inter-American University of the Air
"Music of the New World"

"Canadian Music in Wartime"

1. August 17th
 "Symphony in G Minor"
 Dr. Arnold Walter
2. August 24th
 "Concerto" Piano and Orchestra
 Dr. Healey Willan
3. August 31st
 - (a) "Ballade for Piano and Orchestra" ----- Paul de Marky
 - (b) "Cascades to the Sea"
 Robert Farnon
 1. Cascades
 2. Journey to the Sea
 3. The Sea
4. September 7th
 - (a) "Ballade" ----- Jean Coulthard Adams
 - (b) Suite "From the Highlands of Ontario" ----- Frank Blachford
 1. Indian River
 2. Eagles' Nest
 3. Moon River Rapids
 - (c) "Interlude in an Artist's Life"
 J. J. Weinzwieig
5. September 14th
 - (a) Suite for String Orchestra
 Robert Fleming
 - (b) "Scherzo" ----- Lucio Agostini
 - (c) "Légende" ----- Hector Gratton
6. September 21st
 - (a) "Light Music" ----- Arthur Benjamin
 1. March
 2. Pastorale
 3. Viennese Waltz
 4. Introduction and Final Dance
 - (b) "Evocation" ----- Claude Champagne
 - (c) "The Wind in the Leafless Maple"
 DR. J. J. GAGNIER
7. September 28th
 "Canadian Forest" ----- Maurice Blackburn
8. October 5th
 "War and Peace" ----- Alexander Brott

A Few Words

about the works which will be performed for the first time during this series:

Concerto in C minor for piano and orchestra ----- Dr. Healey Willan

This concerto was written this year for Miss Agnes Butcher who will play it in this series. This work is in three movements which are linked together by episodes based upon the principal subject which is foreshadowed in the introduction. Perhaps the most significant feature of this concerto is its lyrical quality and the number of happy melodies.

"Ballade for piano and orchestra" ----- Paul de Marky

Modern in its general character, the composition has equally exacting parts for soloist and orchestra. The two principal themes of the ballade are directed lyrically as well as dramatically. The climax is reached in the fugatto near the conclusion. Predominating key is in B major. This work was completed this spring.

"Cascades to the Sea" ----- Robert Farnon

This work was inspired by the richness and vast beauty of the Canadian Rockies. It is in three parts:

1. Cascades
2. Journey to the Sea
3. The Sea

The opening phrases of Part I picture early morning in a mountain forest. The music suggests a small bird making its way leisurely to and fro and eventually from tree-top height spies a vigorous waterfall. The music describes the descent of the cascades from the crest of the mountain to the thunderous cataract below. Segueing to Part II and ultimately to Part III the composition illustrates the course of our winged friend as it accompanies the mountain stream on its way from Cascades to the Sea. Work was written in the spring of 1944.

"Ballade"—A Winter's Tale ----- Jean Coulthard Adams

This work is written in a narrative style. After a dramatic opening of several tense chords, the narrator's theme is heard, given out by three solo instruments. It is thoughtful and reflective in character and foretells the story of one who strives to attain a high ideal, setting aside earthly pleasures to do so. The other contrasting theme is that of a mysterious slow dance representing the temptations that divert one from his path through a long life of perseverance.

"Scherzo" ----- Lucio Agostini

This is not what is usually considered a scherzo in the classical form. It has two themes built on two different rhythms not common to a work of this type. The composition was completed recently.

"Evocation" ----- Claude Champagne

This is a short concert number built in the classical lied-form. Two different themes, one minor and one major, are used throughout the work, which has a definite French flavor.

"Canadian Forest" (Charpente) ----- Maurice Blackburn

In this symphonic poem Mr. Blackburn is concerned with the transformation of the forest from live timber to lumber and its utility in modern society. The work is in three movements:

- (a) La Forêt et sa conquête par l'homme
 (The Forest mastered by man)
- (b) Descente des Billots
 (The log drive and the lumberjack)
- (c) Moulins, scieries d'où la forêt renaît transformée
 (The Saw-mill—Trees into lumber)

"War and Peace" ----- Alexander Brott

This is Mr. Brott's most recent composition and is written for full orchestra. It comes out of a nation at war striving for lasting peace. Ruthless modern warfare with its barbaric rhythms—civilized men bemoaning the fate in store for the flower of our generation, youth—the call to combat the forces which plan to annihilate the progress of man and, the final destructions of these forces permeate the first section. The second section expresses man's conception of ideal peace and is intercepted and predominated by the hope of man to continually perfect his way of life. The work ends with a massive chorale in which the whole orchestra joins.

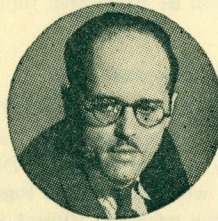
Soloists: AGNES BUTCHER and PAUL de MARKY, pianists; NOEL BRUNET, ALEXANDER BROTT, and PIERRE IOSCH, violinists; LUCIEN ROBERT, violinist.



Dr. Arnold Walter



Dr. Healey Willan



Maurice Blackburn



Alexander Brott



Lucio Agostini



Robert Joseph Farnon



Paul de Marky



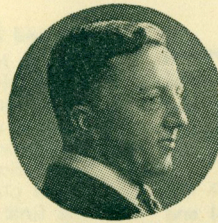
John J. Weinzwieg



Arthur Benjamin



Robert Fleming



Frank Blachford



Claude Champagne



Jean Coulthard Adams



Dr. J. J. Gagnier

Commentator for the Series

THOMAS ARCHER, Music Critic for the Montreal Gazette

Producer — ALBERT CHAMBERLAND, CBC Montreal Studio.

biographical notes

DR. ARNOLD WALTER—Was born in Czechoslovakia and came to Canada when he was forced to flee from Germany as a result of Nazi terrorism. He studied in Prague and Berlin. Arrived in Canada in 1937 and became head of the music department at Upper Canada College. His compositions include a symphony, violin sonatas, cello sonatas, string trios, music for harpsichord and strings, and sacred songs.

DR. HEALEY WILLAN—Organist and composer was born in England but came to Canada in 1913. The following year he became lecturer and examiner at the University of Toronto. His compositions include cantatas, motets, anthems, carols, hymns, many organ works, a symphony, trios, quartets (string), a radio opera, incidental music, and his latest work is the Concerto for Piano and Orchestra which is to be heard in this series.

MAURICE BLACKBURN—One of the most promising of Canada's younger composers. Born in Quebec. He received all his musical training in Canada and the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. Mr. Blackburn is now with the National Film Board. He has written a great deal of incidental music.

ALEXANDER BROTT—Was born in Montreal and studied music there and later won 5 year scholarships at both McGill University and the Juilliard School of Music. He is now a violin teacher and lecturer at McGill Conservatory. His compositions include works for full orchestra, piano, string orchestra and violin. His compositions have been played by various orchestras and performers in U.S. and Canada.

LUCIO AGOSTINI—Born in Italy in 1913. Studied piano, saxophone, wood winds, cello, harmony and counterpoint. He was employed as saxophonist in a theatre at the age of 15. Has now been conducting and arranging for radio programmes for four years. Besides two symphonies he has written innumerable descriptive numbers and incidental music for radio dramatizations. His latest composition, "Scherzo," is being played in this series.

ROBERT JOSEPH FARNON—Born in Toronto and began studying music at the age of 9. Has written several symphonies which have been performed by orchestras in Canada and the U.S. He has also written for piano and several vocal numbers. At present is a Captain in the Canadian Army.

PAUL DE MARKY—Has made his home in Montreal for some years but was born in Hungary. He is internationally known for his expert and sensitive musicianship. Was a skilled virtuoso at the age of 15. He made his debut on concert stage of Budapest in 1923 and brilliant successes followed in Europe's capitals.

JOHN J. WEINZWEIG—Studied music at University of Toronto and Eastman School of Music. He was the founder and conductor of the University of Toronto Symphony from 1934 to 1937. Since 1939 has been teaching composition and orchestration at Toronto Conservatory of Music and lecturing on contemporary music. At present he is a Corporal in the R.C.A.F. and stationed at Rockcliffe. His compositions include works for full orchestra, string quartet, violin, piano, and a number for solo bassoon and orchestra, and intermissions for flute and oboe.

ARTHUR BENJAMIN—Australian pianist and composer who has been living in Vancouver for some years. Studied under scholarship at the Royal College of Music in London. After serving as piano professor at the Sydney State Conservatory in Australia for several years, he returned to the Royal College, London, and took a similar post. His compositions include an opera, several orchestral suites, concerto for violin, viola and orchestra, many songs, piano and violin numbers and short choral works. The Light Music Suite, which we are to hear in this series, was written in 1933.

ROBERT FLEMING—One of the youngest Canadian composers. Born in 1921. Up until he was 14 he concentrated on the piano, but at that time wrote his first song. Studied for several years at Royal College of Music, London, returning to Canada in 1939 and continuing his studies here. He won several scholarships in composition competitions. His "Around the House Suite" for piano and orchestra has been performed several times. He is at present an A.C. 2 on the R.C.A.F.

FRANK BLACHFORD—Violinist. Studied music in Switzerland and Germany, graduating from the Leipzig Conservatory of Music. For many years he has been a teacher at the Toronto Conservatory of Music and has founded and conducted several string groups. His compositions include transcriptions for orchestra, violin solos and songs, which have been performed in Canada. At one time he was examiner for the University of Toronto and the Toronto Conservatory of Music.

CLAUDE CHAMPAGNE—Born in Montreal. Studied at National Conservatory in Paris for 8 years. He is now assistant director of the Quebec Conservatoire. Has also been teacher at the McGill Conservatory and Ecole Supérieure de Musique. On top of writing music he has also published a book, "Solfège." His compositions include orchestral numbers, violin solos, songs and choruses.

JEAN COULTHARD ADAMS—Is a native of Vancouver, B.C. Studied abroad on a scholarship for two seasons under Dr. Ralph Vaughan Williams. Returning to Vancouver she continued her studies with Arthur Benjamin, also taking short courses in the U.S. with Aaron Copland of New York and Mr. Schoenberg of California. Mrs. Adams has done considerable concert work, appearing with the Montreal Symphony and Vancouver Symphony on numerous occasions, as pianist.

DR. J. J. GAGNIER—Was born in Montreal. Came into prominence in 1913 as leader of Montreal Opera Company and later as permanent conductor of Canadian Grenadier Guards' Band. After the Great War he turned his attention once again to symphonic music and the opera. He received his doctorate in music from University of Montreal in 1935 and has conducted concerts in New York, Boston and Chicago and has lectured at Northwestern, Ohio State, and Duquesne Universities and National Music Camp, Interlochen, Michigan. He is now musical director for CBC Quebec Region. Dr. Gagnier is composer of a number of works, including symphonic poems, suites, Indian and Eskimo songs, and many band compositions, which have been performed widely in Canada, United States and Europe.