

NATIONAL CAPITAL OPERA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER February 1990

P.O. Box 8347, Main Terminal, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 3H8

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PROFILE - BOBBI CAIN, PRESIDENT OF N.C.O.S.

"I'm not working today, at least, I don't think so!" were Bobbi Cain's words to me as we bused towards Montreal, to attend Mozart's **Abduction From the Seraglio**". My request for an interview prompted this remark.

Who is Bobbi Cain, one might ask? Well, to some people, Bobbi Cain is an economist, 26 years with the Economic Council of Canada, to be exact! To others, she's mother to three grown children, and a grandmother to boot! But, Bobbi Cain is also a crusader. President of the National Capital Opera Society since May, 1984, she is a constant reminder to Operaphiles etc, of the significance and necessity of having permanent opera of international calibre in Ottawa.

"Opera came long before Economics", she tells me proudly, and I understand full well what she means. "From the age of seven I listened every saturday to the Met Opera Broadcasts, " she adds with a twinkle in her eye... When I ask if she sings, she replies, "I'm a mezzo! **Aida** was and still is my favourite opera, but Mozart I can't do without!" Her two cats would agree! Past President of the Ontario Choral Federation, Bobbi feels very strongly about choral music, as she does about opera.

As I broach the subject of opera at the National Arts Centre, she bristles! Confronted with the demise of opera at the NAC, she declares "I'm not very optimistic! What we need is more lobbying, more awareness and more members, which would give us a larger base to work from." And I agree, as should every member of the NCOS!

She informs me that her latest letter to Yvon Desrochers, Director General of the NAC, as to the future of opera at the NAC during the summer of 1990, lies somewhere still unanswered!! Beware Yvon Desrochers, you haven't heard the last of Bobbi Cain. And that is what makes a crusader and Bobbi Cain is on a **crusade! an opera crusade!**

Thank you, Bobbi -

Gilles Patry, Managing Editor

Watch for my next PROFILE - NCOS Membership Chairperson - Gerda Ruckerbauer
MAD ABOUT OPERA!

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Did You Know?

March 6, 1990, at the NAC, Catherine Robbin will sing in Handel's opera **Floridante** (semi-staged production).

NOTA BENE:

Il me fait plaisir de vous inviter tous et chacun, membres de l'SCON, à participer à ce journal. Vous n'avez qu'à m'écrire vos commentaires, critique ou information à Gilles Patry, SCON, CP 8347, Terminus Central, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 3H8.

Journal de Gilles ...

"La Belle Epoque !"

Le 29 juillet, 1974, le magazine TIME,
à publié cet article sur notre CNA:

NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE, in its fifth year at Ottawa, is a working, growing symbol of Canada's cultural life. Its main hall has but 2,100 seats and, like the European auditoriums that served as its model, it is an intimate and easeful place to hear opera. Its backstage plant is the best in Canada—almost as big as the Metropolitan Opera's. Best of all, there is Conductor Mario Bernardi, who since 1971 has presided over one of the first-rank summer opera festivals on the continent. He began the current season with a new production of Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio*.

Seraglio predates *The Impresario* by four years and is written in the style of the *Singspiel* (literally, song-play), the popular 18th century German comic opera. These days it needs a clever stage style—or more expert clowning—to make a convincing evening. This, alas, the opera failed to get from Director Anthony Besch, who unaccountably kept the action stiff and stately.

Fortunately, the music of *Seraglio* is one glorious moment after another, and here there was no disappointment. Conductor Bernardi has a discreet, controlled way with Mozart that was especially beneficial to some of his younger singers—notably Dutch-born Sonja Poot as Constanze and Montreal's Anna Chornodolska as the maid Blonde. Bass Joseph Rouleau, a regular at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, was lecher-perfect as the Pasha's harem keeper, Osmin. The star of the evening, though, was the five-year-old National Arts Centre Orchestra, a chamber-sized ensemble of 46 that Bernardi conducts in concert during the winter. It plays Mozart with a darker hue than usual, yet is clean and energetic. Canada does not have another orchestra like it, and the ensemble is certainly a match for its smaller U.S. counterparts—notably the Los Angeles and St. Paul chamber orchestras.

48 TIME, July 29, 1974

et en 1990 - où en sommes nous ?

MEMBERSHIP "BRIEFS"

A & A DISCOUNT

In answer to several queries, the 25% discount at the A & A Record Shop applies only :

1. to the Sparks Street Store (177 Sparks Street - ask for David Shore).
2. for Cassettes and Compact Discs.

It does not apply to such items as books, magazines, record guides or electronic equipment.

MEMBERSHIP YEAR

The year's duration of each membership is from January 1 to December 31 (ie. the calendar year).

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Enclosed is a membership application form as a reminder to renew your membership, if you have not already done so. If you have renewed, perhaps you know someone who would like to join us, and so you could pass the form on to him/her.

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FILMS

AT THE BYTOWNE CINEMA - 325 RIDEAU STREET -
BETWEEN KING EDWARD AND NELSON STREETS

AMADEUS

Save Sunday, March 11 at 2:00 PM. Tom Hulse, F. Murray Abraham and Elizabeth Berridge star in Peter Shaffer's screenplay on the life and times of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Sir Neville Marriner leads the Academy of Saint Martin in the Fields and a host of top international singers, performing the music of the Master. Reception following.

PARSIFAL

Sunday, April 8, at 1:30 PM, Hans Jurgen Syberberg's version of Richard Wagner's masterpiece, Parsifal, will be presented. Parsifal and Kundry are played by Karen Krick, Michael Kutter and Edith Clever, and sung by Reiner Goldberg and Yvonne Minton. Aage Haugland plays and sings Klingsor, and Armin Jordan conducts the Monte Carlo Philharmonic. Reception at intermission.

Tickets - \$6.00 advance sale - \$7.00 at the door.

Ticket Outlets - Continental Music - 299 Montreal Road.
Domenic's Music Academy - 1767 Carling Avenue.
International Music Land - Saint Laurent Shopping Centre
Pflug Optical - 1580 Merivale Road
Any Board Member.

Call 225-0124 for
more information.

VOYAGES ORGANISES

Le samedi, 10 février à Montréal, Place des Arts, L'Opéra de Montréal présenta **L'Enlèvement au Sérail** de Mozart, auquel assistèrent avec grand plaisir, plusieurs membres de la SCON. Une visite eut lieu au Musée des beaux-arts pour une montre de "Goûts Distingués, Collectionneurs de Montréal (1880-1920)". Un repas délicieux au restaurant le Vieux Saint Gabriel précéda l'opéra.

Le voyage fut organisé par **Morgan Tours** en association avec l'SCON. Il y a possibilité d'un futur voyage-souscription pour l'année 1990-91 aux représentations de l'Opéra de Montréal. Morgan Tours, rédige présentement une liste d'intéressés. Ceux de vous intéressé à ces voyages d'opéra peuvent communiquer avec Morgan Tours à 722-7572 et votre nom sera ajouté à la liste de diffusion.

Profitez des bonnes choses de la vie! Venez à l'Opéra de Montréal avec Morgan Tours.

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OPERA GALA DU PRINTEMPS

Le samedi 12 mai 1990, La Société d'opéra de la capitale nationale tiendra, dans la salle de bal de l'Hôtel Skyline, sa quatrième activité annuelle de financement, un gala printanier sous le thème "**Une soirée à Vienne**". Le maître de cérémonies sera John Lacharity de Radio Canada. Le gala sera honoré de la présence de l'ambassadeur d'Autriche, Son Excellence Dr. Kurt Herndl.

La SOCN a été fondée en 1983, lorsque le CNA a mis fin à la production d'opéras dans le cadre du Festival d'été. La SOCN a consacré les six dernières années à la promotion des intérêts des amateurs d'opéra de la capitale nationale. Elle se réjouit du fait que son influence a sans doute contribué au retour de la production d'opéras au CNA, qui a présenté les **Noces de Figaro** en juillet '88, et **Don Giovanni** en '89. La SOCN est décidé de continuer ses efforts pour assurer la permanence de l'opéra de calibre international dans la capitale du Canada, malgré les récents problèmes au sein du CNA.

Le cocktail, à 18h30, sera suivi d'un succulent dîner à 19h30.

L'orchestre "**Palm Court**", composé de quatre musiciens d'Ottawa, pourvoiera au côté musical durant le repas. Pour votre plaisir, l'Ottawa Regional Youth Choir sérénadera les convives. Après le dîner, des étudiants en art vocal de l'Université d'Ottawa ajouterons à votre plaisir. Il y aura également de la danse au son de l'Orchestre "**Palm Court**".

Les billets pour cet évènement unique sont de **40\$ par personne** et de **80\$ le couple**. On peut se les procurer en téléphonant à **592-6721** ou **225-0124**.

TOURS

Saturday, February 10, saw a group of NCOS faithful attend the performance of Mozart's opera **Die Entführung aus dem Serail** (The Abduction from the Seraglio) at Place des Arts in Montréal. The exhibition **Discerning Tastes: Montreal Collectors 1880 - 1920**, at the Musée des beaux arts (Museum of Fine Arts) and a gourmet meal at Le Vieux Saint Gabriel preceded the performance. Tour arrangements were made by **Morgan Tours**. Those attending had a pleasant day, and, of course, live opera!

Morgan Tours, in association with the NCOS, will be offering **Montréal Opera Tours** (on Saturdays) in the **1990-1991 season**. The possibility of a subscription package is being studied. While exact performances, casts and performance dates are not yet available, Morgan Tours is creating a list of interested people. If you are interested in attending, and would like more information when it becomes available, please contact Morgan Tours at **722-7572**, and they will put you on the mailing list. See you at the opera!!

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SPRING OPERA GALA

The 4th Annual NCOS Spring Opera Gala "An Evening in Vienna" is scheduled for May 12, 1990 in the Ballroom of the Skyline Hotel, 101 Lyon Street, under the patronage of His Excellency Dr. Kurt Herndl, Ambassador for Austria.

Mr John Lacharity of CBC Radio will be our emcee for the evening. John brings with him a great deal of expertise in this area.

Festivities will begin at 6:30 PM with cocktails, and dinner with a traditionally Austrian menu, will be followed by an evening of dancing. Music will be provided by the Palm Court Orchestra and the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir during dinner.

A vocal performance will be offered by three of the most promising students from the University of Ottawa's Music Department.

Dancing to the strains of the Palm Court Orchestra will commence with a demonstration of Viennese Waltzes, which will include several people from the audience.

In order to augment the coffers, a raffle will be held during the evening, and among other items to be raffled will be a JVC Remote CD Player. A number of door prizes including meals, accommodations and records will also be drawn.

TICKETS - \$40.00 per person (\$80.00 per couple). Call 592-6721 or 225-0124 for reservations.

QUELQUES MOTS SUR LES BENEFICES D'ADHESION:

Rabais chez A & A

Le rabais de 25% s'applique:

1. uniquement rue Sparks, A & A
2. uniquement sur les disques compact et cassettes

Livres, magazines, appareils électroniques, etc. sont exclus.

Adhésion

La durée de l'adhésion est du 1er janvier au 31 décembre (année civile)

Réabonnement

Ci-joint une formule de renouvellement si nécessaire. Par contre, si déjà fait, vous pourriez inviter un ami, ou parent à devenir membre (n'oubliez pas de mentionner le rabais de 25% à A & A - un bienfait appréciable!).

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FILMS

AU CINEMA BYTOWNE - 325 RUE RIDEAU -
ENTRE LES RUES KING EDWARD ET NELSON

AMADEUS

Réservez Dimanche, le 11 Mars, à 14 h. L'éblouissant film de Milos Forman sur Mozart! L'homme et sa musique! Distribution: Tom Hulse, F. Murray Abraham, Elizabeth Berridge, basé sur la pièce de Peter Shaffer. Une réception suivra le film.

PARSIFAL

Stupéfiante version filmée du chef-d'oeuvre Wagnérien. Dimanche, le 8 avril à 13h30. Un film de HJ Syberberg. Distribution: Parsifal et Kundry joués par Karen Krick, Michael Kutter et Edith Clever, chantés par Reiner Goldberg, Yvonne Minton. Direction musicale par Armin Jordan avec l'orchestre de Monte Carlo. Il y aura une intermission avec une réception.

Billets - Pré-vente \$6.00 - \$7.00 au cinéma.

Billets dépositaire - Continental Music - 299 Montreal Road.
Domenic's Music Academy - 1767 Carling Avenue.
International Music Land - Saint Laurent Shopping Centre
Pflug Optical - 1580 Merivale Road
Any Board Member.

Information:
225-0124.

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Merci à

"A Restaurant in the German Tradition"

Thanks to



NOTA BENE:

With great pleasure I invite every member of the NCOS to participate to this newsletter. Please send in your comments, criticisms, news, etc. to Gilles Patry, NCOS, PO Box 8347, Main Terminal, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 3H8

Gilles' Corner ...

"Golden Days !"

On July 29, 1974, TIME magazine carried this article on Ottawa's National Arts Centre:

NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE, in its fifth year at Ottawa, is a working, growing symbol of Canada's cultural life. Its main hall has but 2,100 seats and, like the European auditoriums that served as its model, it is an intimate and easeful place to hear opera. Its backstage plant is the best in Canada—almost as big as the Metropolitan Opera's. Best of all, there is Conductor Mario Bernardi, who since 1971 has presided over one of the first-rank summer opera festivals on the continent. He began the current season with a new production of Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio*.

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48 TIME, July 29 1974

and in 1990 - where are we ?

SOCIÉTÉ D'OPÉRA DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

BULLETIN

Février 1990

C.P. 8347, Terminus Central, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 3H8

Conseil d'Administration de l'SOCN

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1ère Vice-Présidente - Anne Marie Smith

2ème Vice-Président - Frank Fitch

Secrétaire - Valerie Donnelly

Trésorier - Finlay Davis

Adhésion - Gerda Ruckerbauer

Relations Publiques - Gilles Patry

Films - Helen Morgan

Voyages - Jeffry Morgan

Gala - Sherry Joy, John Clegg

Relations à l'Extérieur - Pat Adamo

PROFILE - BOBBI CAIN, PRESIDENTE DE L'SOCN

"Je ne travaille pas aujourd'hui, je crois bien", de me dire Bobbi Cain lorsque je lui demandais une interview, lors d'un voyage à Montréal.

Mais qui est Bobbi Cain, pourrais-t-on demander. Pour certaines gens, elle est une économiste depuis presque 26 années au Conseil Economique du Canada. Pour d'autres elle est mère de trois grands enfants, et grand'maman en plus. Mais Bobbi Cain en tant que Présidente de l'SOCN, depuis Mai 1984, poursuit aussi avec zèle son amour de l'opéra, et de la présence permanente de l'opéra de calibre international dans la capitale du Canada. Toute jeune, Bobbi suivait tous les samedis `a la radio, les représentations du Metropolitan de New York. Son opéra favori est Aida, mais elle admet ne pouvoir se passer de Mozart. Ses deux chats l'approuvent certainement. Bobbi Cain fût aussi présidente de la Fédération des Chorales de l'Ontario, et est très intéressé au chant choral.

Au sujet du déclin de l'opéra au sein du Centre National des Arts, elle se déclare peu optimiste. "Ce dont nous avons besoin, dit-elle, est plus de pression, plus de publicité et surtout beaucoup plus de membres pour poursuivre notre campagne pour garder l'opéra à Ottawa." Elle attend toujours une réponse à sa lettre adressée à Yvon Desrochers, le directeur général du Centre national des Arts, à propos de l'été 1990 à l'Opéra.

Attention Yvon Desrochers, vous n'avez pas entendu le dernier mot de Bobbi Cain et de sa croisade pour la représentation d'opéras à Ottawa.

Merci, Bobbi

Gilles Patry, Rédacteur en Chef

Le prochain profile - adhésion - Gerda Ruckerbauer - FANATIQUE de l'opéra!

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Attention! Pour votre information, le 6 Mars 1990, au CNA, un opéra de Handel, Floridante, avec Catherine Robbin (version de concert).