

MUSIC OF CANADA

ROGER MATTON:

***CONCERTO FOR TWO PIANOS AND ORCHESTRA* Renée Morrisset and Victor Bouchard, pianists
Toronto Symphony, Walter Susskind, conductor**

ROGER MATTON (b. Granby, Quebec, 1929) showed an early promise of musical gifts, and at thirteen was admitted to the Provincial Conservatory of Music in Montreal. Of his teachers the most influential was Claude Champagne, the noted Canadian composer, who guided him into musical composition. Matton also studied abroad for most of 1950-55 in Paris under Nadia Boulanger and Olivier Messiaen. In 1957 he joined the staff of Laval University as a music consultant and researcher for the Folklore Archives. It is natural that French-Canadian and Acadian folklore should have appealed to him: two of his earlier works, *L'Escaouette*, a choral work, and *Horoscope*, a ballet, were based on musical or literary ideas drawn from his heritage. For the last eight years, Matton has continued his research in folklore while composing and teaching composition at the Laval School of Music.

Matton's *CONCERTO FOR TWO PIANOS AND ORCHESTRA* is characteristic of his style. Its most notable features are rhythmic vitality and exciting driving force with sharply contrasted sweeping lyrical lines.

The first movement, Allegro, is based on two contrasting themes which the composer transforms both melodically and rhythmically; the second is an idyllic and emotional song; the third is a brilliant toccata in which the composer re-examines the various themes of the previous movements.

The concerto was given its premiere on November 30, 1964, by the Quebec Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of the French conductor, Pierre Dervaux. The work is dedicated to Renée Morrisset and Victor Bouchard.

WILLIAM McCAULEY

FIVE MINIATURES FOR FLUTE AND STRINGS

Robert Aitken, flute

William McCauley, conductor

WILLIAM McCAULEY (b. Totfield, Alberta, 1917) holds degrees of Bachelor of Music from the University of Toronto and Doctor of Musical Arts from the Eastman School of Music. His composition teachers include Healey Willan, Bernard Rogers, Alan Hovhaness and Howard Hanson.

A skillful arranger and trombone player as well as a prolific composer, McCauley was Director of Music for Crawley Films, Ottawa, from 1949 to 1960, composing and conducting many documentary and television films. In Toronto he became Music Director of the O'Keefe Centre when it opened in 1960, and of York University in 1961.

Among his many film scores, McCauley created the music for the Ontario government's multi-track film designed for Expo '70 at Osaka; for the Hudson's Bay Company's *Impressions 1670-1970*; and for *This Vibrant Land*, a film about Canada's "Group of Seven" painters.

His large output of works for orchestra, choir, chamber ensembles and soloists includes music for percussion ensembles, woodwind and brass quintets combined, and one for trombone, harp and string orchestra.

FIVE MINIATURES FOR FLUTE & STRINGS was composed in 1958 at the request of the late Gordon Day, then solo flutist with the CBC Symphony, to display the flute's flexibility, and was performed by the Eastman Rochester Orchestra. This work was chosen to represent Canada on a United Nations program conducted by Howard Hanson, with Joseph Mariano as soloist.

The Miniatures are available from the publisher in a version for flute and piano.

CLERMONT PEPIN

MONADE FOR STRINGS

Alexander Brott, conductor

CLERMONT PEPIN (b. St-Georges-de-Beauce, Quebec, 1926) won a special CAPAC prize at the age of eleven. He studied piano and composition in Quebec and Montreal with Georgette Dionne, Claude Champagne, and Arthur Letondal, and later at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia with Rosario Scalero and Jeanne Behrend. Three further CAPAC scholarships enabled him to continue his studies in Toronto with Arnold Walter and Lubka Kolessa. Upon winning the much coveted *Prix d'Europe* in 1949, he studied with Arthur Honegger, André Jolivet and Olivier Messiaen in Paris. He taught composition at the Conservatory of Music and Dramatic Art in the Province of Quebec, in Montreal, and was appointed its Director of Studies in 1959.

As a versatile pianist he has composed many works for this instrument, including preludes, études, a suite and three toccatas. Of chamber music he has produced string quartets, "monodies" for flute, and a cycle of songs. For orchestra he has written three symphonies, two symphonic poems, and *Nombres* for two pianos and orchestra, among Others.

Pépin is Director of the Quebec Conservatory of Music in Montreal, and in 1969 was elected President of *Les Jeunesses Musicales* of Canada. In 1970 he was awarded the *Prix de Musique Calixa-Lavallée*.

The *MONADE*, composed in 1964, is written for an ensemble of 14 string instruments. At times synchronized, at times independent of each other, the 14 individual sounds combine to form a whole in which each part yet retains its identity.

This recording was sponsored by the CAPAC Committee for the Promotion of Canadian Music. This joint venture of the Composers, Authors and Publishers Association of Canada, Limited, and the Canadian Association of Broadcasters was created in 1963 to promote the interests of Canadian composers and lyricists of both serious and popular works. Through its efforts more

than 100 original Canadian works by more than 80 composers and lyricists have been recorded and distributed — works ranging from piano concerti to jazz, from ballet scores to *chansons*.

(Original Liner Notes from CRI LP Jacket)