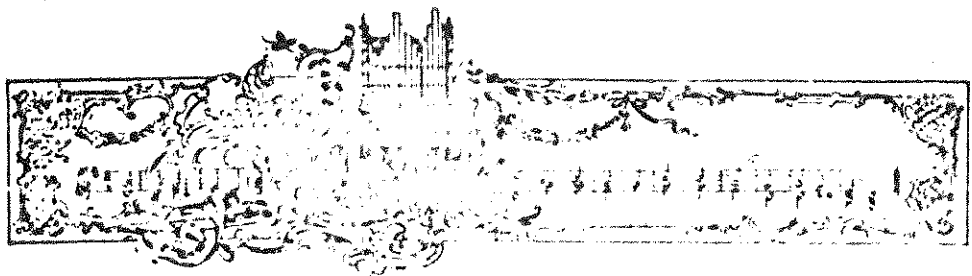


Book 7 (21)



# listen

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Before 1940, Canada was a musical backwoods. There were no orchestras until the 1920's. Isolated figures like Alexis Contant in Montreal, or Ernest MacMillan in a German prisoner-of-war camp, wrote an occasional piece for small ensemble that we can still hear with pleasure. But there was no Charles Ives — hardly even a Horatio Parker. In fact, there is no record of a symphony or a concerto composed in Canada until as late as 1936 (Willan's *First Symphony*).

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In the 1960's, gathering confidence, they turned to the serialism and other devices prevalent in Europe during the previous decade (Proctor calls this phase "the new romanticism"). The turning point came symbolically in centennial year, with *Expo 67* as a fulcrum, and ever since then Canadian music has been abreast with the world. In about twenty years, Canadian composers traversed more than a half a century of musical development.

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Steve Adams  
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## "fields" with hope

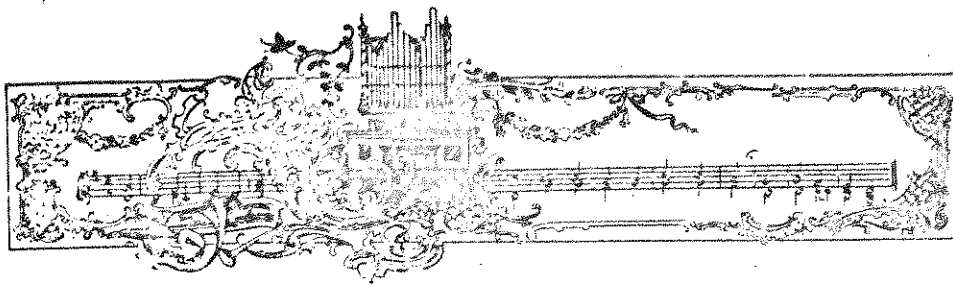
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