

arts, under the Canada–USSR general exchange agreement, two Canadian artists each year may study music, ballet or theatre in the Soviet Union.

The Killam Scholarships of the Canada Council were inaugurated in 1967 with funds from the I.W. Killam estate to help support scholars of exceptional ability engaged in research projects of far-reaching significance. In 1976–77, 34 awards were made under this program, totalling \$1.1 million, and the previous year, 45 awards totalling \$1.1 million.

The council annually awards three \$20,000 prizes from a fund created by the Molson Foundation. The Governor General's Literary Awards, financed by the council, are awarded each year to six Canadian writers. The council also awards two translation prizes to the year's best English and French translations of Canadian works and two children's literature prizes to the year's best English and French books for young people. Co-sponsored by their respective governments and the Canadian government, the Canada–Australia Literary Prize and the Canada–Belgium Literary Prize are awarded by the council in alternate years to a writer from each country. The council also co-sponsors with the CBC an annual national competition for young composers.

The council provides the budget and secretariat for the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). The commission serves as a non-political liaison agency between UNESCO and Canadian public and private bodies concerned with education, science, culture and communications. The commission also carries out a modest domestic program to further UNESCO objectives and co-operates with Canadian organizations in activities directed to the same ends. The commission operates the Canadian Communications Research Information Centre, a national clearing house of information on communications policy, research, resources and activities. It also administers the council's program of grants for international representation for travel of Canadians serving as senior officers or board members of international non-government organizations in the arts, humanities or social sciences.

National Arts Centre (NAC)

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Parliament passed the National Arts Centre Act in 1966, creating a corporation to operate and maintain the centre, to develop the performing arts in the national capital area, and to assist the Canada Council in the development of the performing arts elsewhere in Canada. The building itself, designed by Montreal architect Fred Lebensold, was opened to the public on May 31, 1969. It stands on Confederation Square in the heart of Ottawa, and is in the form of a series of hexagonal halls built on landscaped terraces along the Rideau Canal.

The NAC has three main halls. The Opera, with 2,300 seats, was designed primarily for opera and ballet, with a full-size orchestra pit and the most advanced sound, lighting and other technical equipment available. Its stage is one of the largest in the world, measuring 58 by 34 metres, and the Opera's facilities can handle the most complicated changes required by the largest touring companies. The 950-seat Theatre is ideal for Greek, Elizabethan or contemporary plays, and its stage can easily be adjusted from the conventional rectangular style to the thrust stage style used for Shakespearean drama. Like the Opera, it is fully equipped for television, simultaneous translation and film projection, and its technical facilities are among the best available. The Studio is a hexagonal room which can seat up to 350 persons in a variety of seating plans. It is used for theatre productions, conferences and cabarets.

Other NAC facilities include: the Salon, a small hall seating up to 150 persons and used for chamber concerts, poetry readings, and receptions; a 900-car indoor garage; Le Restaurant, a restaurant and bar; Le Café, a smaller restaurant which, in the summer months, overflows on to the sidewalks along the Rideau Canal; and several large rehearsal halls. The building is richly ornamented with works of art. Its foyers are used for exhibits and public tours of the building are offered daily. On the terraces outside, the NAC plays host to art fairs, craft markets and summertime band concerts.

Under conductor and music director Mario Bernardi, the 46-member National Arts Centre Orchestra performs some 40 concerts a year in the centre and many more each