

## THE CAMMAC MUSIC LIBRARY

The concept of an organization to promote music-making among amateurs was first brought to realization in Canada twenty years ago when several professional musicians began a summer camp which ran for two weeks. Over the years the desire of the members to keep in touch with each other throughout the winter and to meet new music-makers led to the establishment of CAMMAC (Canadian Amateur Musicians/Musiciens Amateurs du Canada) as a full-time organization. It began with some twenty members. Today CAMMAC has a national membership of approximately twelve hundred members across Canada. It has three regional executives in Montreal, Toronto, and Ottawa each of which organizes choral or orchestral readings every month and runs music classes in such things as Orff method, guitar, and recorder during the winter. The Music Camp is now open for six weeks every summer and the organization has sponsored trips abroad to Japan and Tunisia.

The CAMMAC Music Library was established in September, 1959. It has as its aims "the development and enjoyment of amateur music-making. It achieves this by providing for the members of CAMMAC a loan collection of vocal and instrumental music.

The collection has been built up for the most part over the years by donations of music by interested organizations and individuals. It includes choral and instrumental music from masses, cantatas and symphonies to duets and solo works. It consists today of approximately 2300 titles (as distinguished from copies) of which a large portion is chamber music. The entire stock of the library is printed music. The unique factor of the CAMMAC Music Library is that it loans out to members of the organization complete sets for each work. It has multiple copies of choral works together with the orchestral parts and has copies of each part for instrumental compositions. The music may be borrowed on a long-term loan to allow time to prepare a work for concert. The library also borrows music from the Drinker Choral Library of Philadelphia.

The collection is still supported to a large extent by donations of actual music while current purchases involve replacing missing parts and as much as possible filling in gaps in the collection. The library circulates the music to members who come in person or by mail. It is open all year except for the months of July and August when a major portion of the music is transported to the Summer Camp. The library published a book catalogue several years ago and last year published the first supplement.

The advantages of such a library are obvious -- music is an expensive and often difficult commodity to procure. Unless a person intends to become professional this expense may present a major deterrent to his pursuing an active interest in the world of music. The CAMMAC organization encourages people to come together with other amateurs and professionals to enjoy music-making and offers in its library an opportunity for many players and singers to try works which in normal circumstances they might never otherwise be able to do. For further information write: CAMMAC, P.O. Box 32, Montreal 215, P.Q.

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