

Joni Mitchell gets solo art show in Saskatoon

ARTS INK

Singer-songwriter **Joni Mitchell** is to have a major exhibition of her painting at Saskatoon's Mendel Art Gallery. The Globe and Mail has learned. The exhibition, her first art show in her native Canada, is planned for the summer of 2000 and will examine links between her writing, music and painting.

Los Angeles-based Mitchell, who considers herself a regional Prairie artist, grew up in Saskatoon and has always maintained a connection to the place and the surrounding area. The Mendel plans to offer the exhibition for tour regionally, nationally and internationally.

Gallery director Gilles Hébert, curating the project, said yesterday the show will satisfy a couple of objectives. "I am interested in investigating the nature of regional art production and people who are working in multimedia — someone who is a painter, a writer and a musician but who has not consciously made linkages in a formal way. And Joni Mitchell is a remarkable example."

— *Deirdre Kelly*

Dispute over record series

Opera lovers were sorry to learn this week that the budget-priced

Naxos Historical Series of recordings may be discontinued. Since 1997, the Naxos series has released dozens of previously unavailable 1940s-era Metropolitan Opera broadcasts and Toscanini-conducted symphonies.

Few Canadians were aware that the recordings came from the British Columbia-based, non-profit archive Immortal Performances Recorded Music Society (IPRMS), which signed a distribution contract with Hong Kong-based Naxos in 1997. This week, lawyers for IPRMS asked Naxos to halt distribution of the latest release, a 1936 recording of Wagner's *Götterdämmerung*. According to IPRMS president Richard Caniell, the recording is blurred, noisy and distorted, much inferior to the digital master tapes he provided. "We have terminated our relationship with Naxos," said Caniell.

Naxos's quality-control troubles go back to May, 1998, when Caniell temporarily quit over unauthorized cuts and technical changes made

after the tapes left his studio. Naxos corrected those recordings.

Naxos of Canada president Harry Lewin defended the company's quality control yesterday.

"Mistakes can happen in the best regulated circumstances. We have put out 15 to 20 'Naxos Historical' titles very successfully over the last year or so with no problems at all," he said.

— *Philip Anson*

Children's books honoured

Marilyn Helmer's *Fog Cat*, illustrated by Paul Mombourquette (Kids Can Press) has won the \$7,500 prize for best book for ages 7 and under at the 10th annual Mr. Christie's Book Awards for children's literature, in Toronto. Richard Scrimger's *The Nose From Jupiter*, published by Tundra Books, won \$7,500 for best book for ages 8 to 11. And William Bell's *Zack* picked up the \$7,500 prize for best book for ages 12 and up. For a decade, Christie Brown & Co., a subsidiary of Nabisco, has sponsored the awards, which are among the most generous in children's writing. Another \$22,500 will be disbursed today in Montreal for French-language books.

— *Staff*