Malka chats with elusive poet

Malka, the folksinger turned broadcaster, follows her exclusive CBC-Radio in-depth interview with Joni Mitchell this coming season in a 90-minute recorded chat with an equally elusive Leonard Cohen.

The Cohen interview, as with Joni Mitchell, is for The Entertainers series. Malka met the poet casually in Montreal recently and persuaded him to discuss his career in candid terms before a microphone. Her radio career only a year old this fall has been marked by success. The Mitchell show drew rounds of praise, and a recent hour-long portrait of the Bedouins she recorded on the scene in Israel has been selected as one of CBC's entries in the annual Ohio State Award competition.

In October, she'll turn singer again for a group of radio music shows with composer-arranger Milan Kymlicka. Now that's versatility few Canadian performers have shown ... Christopher Plummer dropped into a CBC fall schedule party in Toronto yesterday, and left quickly. The bar wasn't stocked with wine, which is all he drinks. He's in the city taping a Stephen Leacock one-man show for CBC producer Harry Rasky.

Leggy Sandra O'Neill is back, building a new career for herself. She's headlining the nightly revue at the Prince Hotel for the next four weeks ... John Colicos was to have been in Turkey this week for a role in the movie The Passover Plot. It would have involved use of the Turkish army, but it has been postponed because the army is otherwise engaged.

Be forewarned: Nana Mouskouri's two Massey Hall concerts, Sept. 18 and 19, are also 60 per cent sold out ... Guessing Game: What Toronto female entertainment gossip columnist has been dating Maple Leaf Gardens chief Harold Ballard recently? The couple, looking quite happy with each other, has been spotted over the past few weeks dining at Ports of Call and the Westbury Hotel dining room and having afternoon tea at the Guild Inn. CITY-TV marks its second birthday Sept. 28 and, to general manager Moses Znaimer's chagrin, it's getting a real name for itself among visiting American performers. They've spread the word about the weekly Baby Blue Movie and smirk about it on Johnny Carson and Merv Griffin talk shows.

Included in O'Keefe Centre's current subscription season will be Kronborg: 1582, the Cliff Jones pop music version of Hamlet premiered at this year's Charlottetown Festival. Named to the faculty of the new Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra are resident conductor Victor Feldbrill and resident musicians Albert Pratt, Thomas Monohan, Christopher Weait, Eugene Rittel and Don Kuehn. Auditions are being held at the Edward Johnson Building Oct. 11 to 13, and a joint concert with the full symphony is set for April 12.

Theatre review

Another right on the Kleenex trail