THE PHIL THOMAS QUESTIONNAIRE

In May of this year I sent 39 requests of news about activities or courses on Canadian folk music in the schools to people responsible for music education across Canada. These names were selected at random, but with some regard to geographical distribution, from the list of music consultants, directors and supervisors in Canada (kindly supplied by the Canadian Music Educators Association). I received ten replies from people in seven provinces - a very good response for a mail sample. The following is a brief summary of their answers. I hope this will be of interest to readers of the CFMS Newsletter, and will stimulate interest in the use of Canadian folk songs and music in our schools.

F.D. Jensen (Supervisor of Music, Edmonton Public Schools)

An Edmonton elementary school gave a presentation in story and song, entitled 'How the West Began', which incorporated a number of Canadian folk songs. All elementary schools have copies of Folk Songs of Canada (Fowke and Johnston). Class sets of Canadian Vibrations are available from the Music Department.

Emil First (Music Co-ordinator K-13, Sudbury Board of Education)

Canadian folk songs from the Songtime series of song books are used in our course of study. Dorothy Hogan, one of the recording artists on the record 'Maple Sugar' gave a series of concerts in our schools. The Sudbury Board of Education System Wide Choirs included Canadian folk songs in their programmes. Most schools in the system learned some Canadian folk songs in connection with the Commonwealth Day programme.

Doreen Sutherland (Laurentian Public School, Pembroke, Ontario)

Two folk artists, Bernie Bedore and Bram Morrison, presented programs to several hundred children in Renfrew County Public Schools - seven performances in all. Bernie Bedore's programme included legends and stories of Renfrew County in addition to local songs such as "The Hornet and the Fence Post" and songs about Mufferaw. Bram Morrison's repertoire included story songs, work songs, sea shanties and animal songs, mainly Canadian. His programme was taped for later use in the classroom. Both of these singers stimulated creative activities in the children, including songs and dances made by the children themselves, and even two-foot painted outlines of Joe Mufferaw.

Kaye R. Dimrock (Consultant, Department of Music Education, Halifax)

Using the Kodaly method, the Halifax schools draw on children's songs collected by Helen Creighton. The Eighth Annual Spring Festival presented by the Halifax Department of Music Education included a String Tribute to Dr. Helen Creighton as well as choral arrangements of songs from Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Kaye Dimrock writes: "I am glad to see that the Canadian Folk Music Society is beginning to take some interest in what is happening in the schools... If we don't teach these songs in the schools, they will not be passed on".

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Monique Ledue (Music Consultant, The Montreal Catholic School Commission)

Canadian and English-language folk songs are used in grades five and six and in high school as a part of the teaching of English as a second language. A short bibliography has been prepared for circulation to elementary school teachers. Arrangements of Quebec, Canadian, French and American songs are used by choirs and bands in the high school programme. The Quebec Board of Education through its music division last year commissioned several musicians to work on a collection of folk songs for school use.

Dennis Tupman (Performing Arts Coordinator, Vancouver School Board)

The use of Canadian folk materials is being widely encouraged. At the British Columbia Music Educator's Conference in the fall of 1975, seven Canadian folk tunes were performed by an all-Vancouver secondary school band in an arrangement entitled Canada - A Folk Song Set. Two well-known local artists, Ulrika Reubsaat and Jon Bartlett, have been encouraged to conduct a programme - The Canadian Folk Workshop - in the high schools to bring together the study of Canadian folk songs with history and literature.

Judy Kopelow (Brandon School, Division No. 40)

Judy Kopelow arranged performances by two Canadian folk musicians - Dan Donahue and Don Zeur - during the summer months in elementary and junior high schools.