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Using audience information obtained from 79 different surveys in 16 Canadian communities during the summer of 1978 , this report explores one dimension of audiences for the performing arts; exposure to the performing arts, primarily through childhood experiences, and its relationship to community, performance, socio-demographic, and behavioural characteristics.

A major reason for examining exposure of audiences for the performing arts lies with the implications the findings may have for policy and program formation by groups interested in audience development. A positive relationship between relatively early exposure and later attendance at performing arts events provides a basis for a rationale for the increased investment of resources in programs to educate and involve the young in the performing arts.
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(1) $55.1 \%$ of the respondents indicated that they had taken courses in music, theatre or dance; $59.6 \%$ indicated that they listened to classical music or played mustcal instruments as a child; $59.4 \%$ said that they had had teachers or school activities that helped to develop their interest in the performing arts and $54.6 \%$ attended a similar live performance before the age of 16 .
(2) Of the toal sample of 7,010 respondents, 6,684 or $95.4 \%$ answered the questions about early exposure. Of these, 1,256 or $18.8 \%$ had Very High exposure; 1,608 or $24.1 \%$ had High exposure; 1,399 or $20.9 \%$ had Moderate exposure; 1,315 or 19.4\% had Low exposure; and, 1,106 or 16.5\% had Very Low exposure.
(3) In the summary presented below, the characteristics of the respondents in the exposure levels of Very High and Very Low are highlighted. If a large difference in the exposure rates of audiences displaying the various characteristics appears, this difference is identified by an asterisk (*). (Large difference - ten percentage points or more.)


## VERY HIGH EXPOSURE

. The following presents the highest and lowest percentage of the audience members in the very high exposure category for each characteristic.

* Community: Victoria (33.3\%) - Truro (3.1\%)
* Type of event: Classical music (29.1\%) - Popular music (12.3\%)

Sex: Female (21.8\%) - Male (14.3\%)

* Year of birth: 1959 or later (25.9\%) - before 1914 (12.9\%)
* Education: Post-graduate degree (26.9\%) - Some high school (12.9\%)
* Residence: Another country (29.3\%) - Elsewhere in province (12.9\%)
* Reason for travel to city: Business reasons (28.2\%) Especially for the performance ( $12.9 \%$ )
* Travel time: Less than $15 \mathrm{~min} .(20.0 \%)$ - More than 1 hour ( $12.0 \%$ )
* Information source: Other (24.8\%) \& Posters/billboards (23.5\%) Television (9.6\%)

Reason for attending performance: Director/conductor (23.9\%)
Friends' and relatives' reports (18.0\%)

* Reason for increasing attendance: Public transportation more convenient (29.0\%) - Cheaper total cost (18.8\%)


## VERY LOW EXPOSURE

- The following presents the highest and lowest percentages of the audience members in the very low exposure category for each characteristic.
* Community: Truro (31.7\%) - Victoria (8.6\%)

Type of event: Popular music (19.0\%) - Dance (10.5\%)
Sex: Male (21.3\%) - Female (15.3\%)

* Year of Birth: Before 1914 (21.8\%) - 1959 or later (10.3\%)
* Education: Elementary (30.3\%) - University degree (12.4\%)
* Residence: Elsewhere in province (23.4\%) - Another country (12.0\%)
* Reason for travel to city: Especially for the performance (23.9\%) Business reasons (12.6\%)

Thavel time: More than 1 hour ( $23.1 \%$ ) - Less than 15 min . ( $17.2 \%$ )
Information source: Radio (23.2\%) - Other (15.9\%)
Reason for attending performance: Friends' and relatives' reports (19.3\%) - composer/playright/choreographer (14.7\%)

Reason for increasing attendance: Cheaper total cost (19.7\%) Performances given more often (12.2\%)

These findings suggest that there are considerable differences between audience members who have been heavily exposed to the performing arts and those who have not -- in socio-demographic characteristics and in behavioural characteristics. This positive relationship between early exposure and later attendance at performing arts events may be used to increase future attendance by creating access to programs aimed at increasing Canadians' early exposure to the arts, whether through educational facilities or other means.

The most consistent and best predictor of a person's attendance at performing arts events is his or her educational background; well educated individuals attend more arts events than their less educated peers. Various reasons have been proposed for this pattern. First, schooling exposes students to formal training in the arts and to a social milieu in which the arts are performed, exhibited, discussed and valued. Second, education, particularly high education, provides an environment in which the arts are relatively accessible and a group of peers who attend with regularity. Third, a disproportionate number of men and women who acquire higher education have parents who are also well educated; thus, their interest in the arts "begins at home".

There are two aspects to a person's educational background as it relates to the performing arts. The first, the level of general education which a person has obtained is the most extensively measured and cited. The second, the focus of this paper, early exposure to the arts as experienced by an individual, has received considerably less investigation.

DiMaggio and Useem (1978) ${ }^{1}$ reported that children of the well educated were more likely than the children of the less educated to have been exposed to the arts when they were young, and may already frequent the arts by the time they reach college. Book and Globerman, ${ }^{2}$ in their study of Ontario audiences for the performing arts, found that on the average, one-half of all audience members were 13.5 years or younger when they first attended a live performance. First attendance at a theatre performance usually occurred at an earlier age than attendance at classical music or dance performances. Moreover, the results indicated that the younger a person was when first attending a live performance, the more likely he or she was to attend frequently as an adult.

Exposure through courses, home activities, or school activities showed a similar pattern. A greater proportion of audience members had taken courses in music, dance or theatre than had the general population. Furthermore, the results of the study indicated that a greater proportion of frequent attenders of the performing arts had taken courses than had occassional attenders or non-attenders. The relationship between taking courses and frequent attendance was especially strong for the audiences of classical music and dance performances.
1
Paul DiMaggio, Michael Useem and Paula Brown. Audience Studies of the Performing Arts and Museums: A Critical Review. National Endowment
2 for the Arts. Research Division Report \#9, Baltimore: 1978. S.H. Book, S. Globerman, and the National Research Centre of the Arts. The Audience for the Performing Arts. Toronto: Ontario Arts Council, 1975.

Finally, Book and Globerman found that listening to classical music or playing a musical instrument as a child was strongly related to the frequency with which a person went to performances of all types as an adult. The more early experience a person had with music, the more frequently he or she would go to performances as an adult.

The Book and Globerman (1975) study provides a base for the examination of the relationship of early performing arts exposure and later attendance. Relying upon their Ontario research, this paper expands somewhat by utilizing data from 7,010 respondents in 16 Canadian communities and by relating early exposure to community, socio-demographic and behavioural characteristics. 1

1 See Appendix 1. A, Survey Background for details of the context in which audience surveys were conducted.

PERFORMING ARTS AUDIENCES - SUMMER, 1978 AND THE EXPOSURE TO THE PERFORMING ARTS

Four questions in the Performing Arts Audience Survey, Summer 1978 (PAAS '78) related to experiences with the performing arts. They requested respondents to indicate whether they ever

- took courses (school, club or private) in music, theatre or dance;
- listened to classical music or played musical instruments as a child;
- had teachers or school activities that helped develop their interest in the performing arts;
- at what age they first attended a live performance of a similar nature.

The last three questions pertained most directly to childhood experiences and the performing arts. The first question could encompass both childhood and adult exposure.
(a) Exposure through Courses, Family Activities and/or School Activities

Between 55 and 60 percent of the respondents to these questions indicated that they did have exposure to the performing arts through either courses, family activities or school activities. (Table 1)

TABLE 1: Exposure to the Performing Arts through Courses, Family Activities or School Activities

| Early Exposure Through | Yes |  | No |  | Total |  | NonResponse* |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \# | \% | \# | \% | \# | \% | \# |
| Courses | 3,652 | 55.1 | 2,977 | 44.9 | 6,629 | 100.0 | 381 |
| Family Activities | 3,940 | 59.6 | 2,673 | 40.4 | 6,613 | 100.0 | 397 |
| School Activities | 3,875 | 59.4 | 2,649 | 40.6 | 6,524 | 100.0 | 486 |

[^0]From Table 2 we can calculate that in total somewhat over four-fifths of the audience members ( $81.5 \%$ ) who answered any of the three questions, in fact, had some relatively early exposure to the arts. Conversely, only one-fifth of the audience members recorded having no early exposure to the performing arts.

Nearly one-third of the audience members had been exposed to the arts through all three mechanisms: courses, family activities and school activities.

TABLE 2: Exposure to the Performing Arts through a Combination
of Courses, Family Activities and School Activities

| TYPE OF EXPOSURE | $\#$ | $\%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Courses only | 407 | 6.1 |
| Family Activities Only | 629 | 9.4 |
| School Activities Only | 478 | 7.2 |
| Courses and Family Activities | 529 | 7.9 |
| Courses and School Activities | 6.5 | 9.3 |
| Family and School Activities | 681 | 10.2 |
| Courses, Family and School Activities | 2,101 | 31.5 |
| No Exposure | 1,228 | 18.4 |
| Total | 6,668 | 100.0 |

Non-response: 342 or $4.9 \%$ out of a sample of 7,010 .
A similar pattern was found in the Book and Globerman study (1975); however, they reported higher proportions of individuals had early exposure to the arts. Over one-half of the people in the present study had taken specialized courses (Table 1), $69 \%$ of the respondents in the earlier investigation had. Similarly, the proportions in the Book and Globerman study for family and school activities were $10 \%$ and $7 \%$ higher respectively. Because the Book and Globerman study surveyed Ontario audiences only, the lower percentages in the present study may reflect community and regional discrepancies in the amount of early exposure audience members have experienced. Community differences in exposure to the performing arts are discussed in another section of this document.
(b) Age of Exposure to a Similar Performance

Over one-half of the audience members also attended a similar live, performance before the age of fifteen (Table 3). This figure is somewhat lower than the proportion found in the Book and Globerman investigation,
which reported that $60 \%$ of the audiences first attended a performing arts event before the age of 16 .

TABLE 3: Age of First Attendance

| AGE | $\#$ | $\%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Under 6 years old | 545 | 8.3 |
| 6 to 9 years old | 1,089 | 16.7 |
| 10 to 12 years old | 863 | 13.1 |
| 13 to 15 years old | 1.081 | 16.5 |
| 16 years and over | 2,980 | 45.4 |
| Total | 6,567 | 100.0 |

Non-response: 443 or $6.3 \%$ out of a sample of 7010.
(c) Relationship of Exposure through Courses, Family Activities and School Activities and Age of First Attendance

It is hypothesized that individuals who have had childhood exposure to the performing arts through courses, family or school activities also would be more likely to have actually attended performances at an early age. There are two primary reasons for this expectation. First, a child who has been exposed to the performing arts through courses or other activities is more likely to express an interest in attending a live performance than one who has little or no experience with the arts. Second, parents and other adults who encourage a child to engage in activities related to the performing arts are likely to have an interest in the arts themselves, and consequently, would be more likely to take or send the child to a performance than would a parent with little or no interest.

The results of the present survey do show that there is a consistently positive relationship between exposure through courses, family and school activities and the age of first attendance. The larger the range of performing arts activities in which a child engaged the earlier he/she likely attended his/her first performance. This is illustrated in Tables 4A and 4B. Fifteen percent of the respondents who had exposure to the performing arts through courses, family and school activities had attended a similar live performing arts event under the age of 6 . Less than one-quarter of this same group first attended when they were 16 years and over. The opposite pattern appears among the "no exposure" respondents where only $2 \%$ attended a live performing
arts event when they were under 6 years old; three-quarters attended first when they were over 16 years old. In the same table, another pattern emerges; if the respondents had been exposed to the performing arts through "family" activities, the age of first attendance also was lower (Table 4A). This suggests the primary importance of family influence.

TABLE 4A: Relationship of Exposure through Courses, Family Activities and School Activities and Age of First Attendance (Row Percentages)

AGE OF FIRST ATTENDANCE

| EXPOSURE <br> THROUGH | Under 6 yrs. | $\begin{aligned} & 6-9 \\ & \text { yrs. } \end{aligned}$ | 10-12 yrs. | 13-15 yrs. | 16 yrs \& over | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \# \% | \# \% | \# \% | \# \% | \# \% | \# \% |
| Courses | $8$ | $27 \quad 7.1$ | $318.2$ | $\begin{aligned} & 72 \\ & 19.0 \end{aligned}$ | ${ }^{241} \quad 63.6$ | $\begin{aligned} & 379 \\ & 100.0 \end{aligned}$ |
| Family <br> Activities | $16_{2.7}$ | ${ }^{69} 11.6$ | $72$ | $\begin{aligned} & 80 \\ & 13.4 \end{aligned}$ | $3_{60.2}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 597 \\ & 100.0 \end{aligned}$ |
| School <br> Activities | $12$ | 469.8 | $5_{12.1}$ | ${ }_{22.1}$ | ${ }^{251} 53.4$ | $\begin{aligned} & 470 \\ & 100.0 \end{aligned}$ |
|  <br> Family <br> Activities | $5_{10.6}$ | $88$ | ${ }^{84} 16.3$ | $8_{16.2}$ | ${ }^{203} 39.7$ | $\begin{aligned} & 512 \\ & 100.0 \end{aligned}$ |
|  <br> School <br> Activities | 335.5 | ${ }^{105} 17.4$ | ${ }^{103} 17.0$ | ${ }_{21.8}$ | ${ }_{38.3}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 605 \\ & 100.0 \end{aligned}$ |
| Family \& School Activities | $69_{10.4}$ | ${ }^{121} 18.2$ | ${ }^{106} 16.0$ | ${ }^{115}$ | ${ }^{252} 38.0$ | $\begin{aligned} & 663 \\ & 100.0 \end{aligned}$ |
|  <br>  <br> School <br> Activities | ${ }^{324} 15.6$ | 588 28.3 | ${ }^{344} 16.6$ | ${ }^{335} 16.1$ | $4_{23.4}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2,078 \\ & 100.0 \end{aligned}$ |
| No Exposure | 242.0 | 484.1 | $62_{5.3}$ | ${ }^{153} 13.0$ | ${ }^{893} 75.6$ | $\begin{gathered} 1,180 \\ 100.0 \end{gathered}$ |
| Total | $5408.3$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1,092 \\ & 16.8 \end{aligned}$ | ${ }^{859} 13.3$ | ${ }^{1,074} 16.6$ | ${ }_{45.0}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 6,484 \\ & 100.0 \end{aligned}$ |

Non-response: See Table 4B, page 10.

Table $4 B$, presenting the same data in another perspective, again highlights the difference in early attendance pattersn among "no exposure" and "high" exposure respondents.

Of the respondents who had attended a similar live performing arts event when they were under $6,60 \%$ were exposed to the arts through all three: courses, family and school activities. Less than $5 \%$ of the "under 6's" had "no exposure". Of the respondents who did not attend a similar live performing arts event until at least $16,30 \%$ had "no exposure" and $16.7 \%$ had exposure through all 3 activities.

TABLE 4B Relationship of Exposure through Courses, Family Activities and School Activities and Age of First Attendance (Column Percentages)

| EXPOSURE THROUGH | Under 6 yrs. \% | $\begin{gathered} 6-9 \\ \text { yrs. } \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | AGE OF FIRST ATTENDANCE |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | 10-12 yrs. <br> \% | 13-15 yrs. <br> \% | 16 yrs . \& over \% | Total <br> \% |
| Courses | 1.5 | 2.5 | 3.6 | 6.7 | 8.3 | 5.9 |
| Family Activities | 3.0 | 6.3 | 8.4 | 7.5 | 12.3 | 9.2 |
| School Activities | 2.2 | 4.2 | 6.6 | 9.7 | 8.6 | 7.2 |
| Courses \& Family Activities | 10.0 | 8.1 | 9.8 | 7.7 | 7.0 | 7.9 |
|  <br> School Activities | 6.1 | 9.6 | 12.0 | 12.3 | 7.9 | 9.3 |
| Family \& School Activities | 12.8 | 11.1 | 12.3 | 10.7 | 8.6 | 10.2 |
|  <br>  <br> School Activities | 60.0 | 53.8 | 40.1 | 32.1 | 16.7 | 32.1 |
| No Exposure | 4.4 | 4.4 | 7.2 | 14.2 | 30.6 | 18.2 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Non-response: to age of first attendance: 443 or $6.3 \%$ of total sample of 7,010 .
Non-response: to questions about exposure: 370 or $5.3 \%$ of total sample of 7,010.
Non-response: to questions about exposure and age of first attendance: 526 or $7.5 \%$ of a total sample of 7,010 .

Given that the hypothesized relationship between activities and attendance, in fact, was so strong the responses to the four childhood questions were combined into an index -- the Index of Early Exposure (IEE). This index is useful in simplifying the data, and consequently, is utilized in the subsequent discussions and analysis.

The index of Exposure to the Performing Arts was created by combining each of the 7,010 respondent's answers to the four questions relevant to early experiences with the arts. Each respondent was then assigned to one of 5 levels of exposure according to the following criteria:

Very High: "yes" to all 4: Courses, Family Activities, School Activities, Attendance before 16 years old

High: "yes" to any 3
Moderate: "yes to any 2
Low: "yes" to only 1
Very Low: "no" to all 4 exposure questions
In addition, a maximum of 2 non-responses was allowed per respondent: if any respondent had 3 missing responses, the respondent also was relegated to the "no response" category. This decision was made to strengthen the intensity of the positive response to the exposure questions and to reduce the probability of respondent/coding error. The resultant index and associated number of respondents appears in Table 5.

TABLE 5: Index of Exposure to the Performing Arts (IE)

* RESPONDENTS

A

| DEGREE OF <br> EXPOSURE | Including <br> $\#$ | Non-response <br> $\%$ | Excluding non-response <br> $\#$ |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Very High | 1,256 | 17.8 | 1,256 | 18.8 |
| High | 1,608 | 22.9 | 1,608 | 24.1 |
| Moderate | 1,399 | 20.0 | 1,399 | 20.9 |
| Low | 1,315 | 18.8 | 1,315 | 19.4 |
| Very Low | 1,106 | 15.8 | 1,106 | 16.5 |
| Non-response | 326 | 4.7 | - | - |
| Total | 7,010 | 100.0 | 6,684 | 100.0 |

* In some instances in the following tables the non-responses to the index have been incorporated into the Very Low Category. This is indicated at the bottom of the table when relevant. From the above it is seen that the inclusion of non-response with very low does not dramatically affect the results.

Only a small portion of individuals answering the questionnaire fell into the "No Response" category (4.7\%). When they are moitted from the calculations (Column B), it is seen that nearly $1 / 5$ of the audiences had "Very High" exposure and approximately $1 / 6$ reported "Very Low" exposure.

RELATIONSHIP OF THE
Index OF EXPOSURE TO THE PERFORMING ARTS (IE) TO PERFORMANCE AND AUDIENCE CHARACTERISTICS

The relationship of the Index of Exposure (IE) to numerous other factors associated with the performance characteristics and audience attributes is explored in the remainder of this paper. The variables cross tabulated with the IE were selected because previous studies and/or explorations have identified these characteristics as being significant. When possible and where relevant, explanations and discussions of the findings have been presented.
(a) IE and Community

Performing Arts Audience surveys were taken in sixteen communities. The number of performances surveyed in each community varied considerably and was based primarily on the actual number of performing arts events held in the communities at the time surveys were being conducted. In Edmonton 15 different performing arts events were surveyed. In three communities, Edmundston, Moncton and Trois-Rivières, audiences at only one event were surveyed. Summerside, Prince Edward Island had no performing arts events, but two performing arts events in Charlottetown were surveyed due to the geographical proximity of the two communities.

The amount of exposure to the performing arts varied considerably from one community to another. Approximately two-thirds of audience members in Brandon and Victoria reported "Very High" or "High" exposure. Chicoutimi, Edmonton and Edmundston were three other communities whose audiences experienced "Very High" and "High" exposure summing to at least 5 percentage points above the national rate. At the opposite end of the scale, lower rates of exposure were predominant among audiences in Drummondville, Moncton, Rimouski, Trois-Rivières and Truro.

Reasons for the different rates of exposure in the various communities are difficult to determine without a much closer examination of the data.

Survey methodology, as measured by type of event and number of performances surveyed in each community, does not appear to be a factor. The range in the type of events at which audiences were surveyed were similar for the low and the high exposure communities also; the number of performances surveyed in the high versus the low exposure groups also was similar, except for Edmonton and Victoria where audiences at a large number of performances were surveyed. Other obvious types of explanations do not seem to fit either: high exposure rates are not predominant in provincial capital cities, predominantly in English or French speaking communities, or in cities where universities or colleges are located.

Table 6: Index of Exposure and Community

(1) Non-response: 326 respondents or $4.7 \%$ of total sample of 7,010 .
(2) Charlottetown rather than Surmerside. There were no performing arts events in Summerside; therefore, audience surveys were conducted in Charlottetown.
(b) IE and Type of Performing Arts Events

The 79 performing arts events were categorized into one of the four major disciplines: theatre, popular music, classical music and dance.

Audiences for theatre events accounted for the bulk of the sample with $55.5 \%$. Popular music audiences comprised another 30.5\%. Classical music and dance audiences accounted for the remaining $10.4 \%$ and $3.6 \%$ respectively.

The highest rates of exposure were observed among classical music audiences. Nineteen percent of the entire group had "Very High" exposure; nearly thirty percent of the classical music audiences experienced "Very High" exposure. Popular music audiences were considerably under-represented among the "Very High" groups.

The observed patterns are consistent with expectations. Popular music draws audiences with the most variant background in the performing arts; classical music tends to draw people with a good deal of early exposure. This, in turn, reflects the accessibility of popular music through other media, notably the radio.

A very interesting and astute analysis on the effect of popular media on the acceptance of classical music by the public has been made by Charles Hoffer in an article entitled "Some Implications of the Mass Availability of Music", in Challenges in Music Education, edited by the Department of Music, University of Western Australia, 1976, pp. 38-43. Hoffer concludes that the loud dynamic levels, the shorter thematic development, and the relative lack of musical nuance in popular music, as well as its increased commercial use have changed the listening patterns of the public, making classical music seem long-winded, overly restrained, and somewhat tedious. He argues that an individual now needs to learn how to listen to classical music, as it requires keen attention to sounds and detail.

TABLE 7: Index of Exposure and Type of Performing Arts Event

| DEGREE OF EXPOSURE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Very High | High | Subtotal (Very High \& High) | Moderate | Low | Very Low | Subtotal <br>  <br> Very <br> Low) | Total | Percent by Type of Event |
|  | \# \% | \# \% | \% | \# \% | \# \% | \# \% | \% | \# \% | \% |
| TOTAL | ${ }^{1,256} 18.8{ }^{1}$ | ,608 24.1 | 42.9 | $1,399$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1,315 \\ & \\ & 19.7^{1} \end{aligned}$ | ${ }^{, 106} 16.5$ | 36.2 | ${ }^{6,684} \underset{100.0}{ }$ | 100.0 |
| TYPE OF EVENT |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Theatre | 75720.4 | 85723.0 | 43.5 | 77520.9 | 70919.1 | 61516.6 | 35.7 | 3,713 100.0 | 55.5 |
| Popular Music | 25012.3 | ${ }^{516} 25.3$ | 37.6 | $449 \quad 22.1$ | $43321.3$ | 38819.0 | 40.3 | $\stackrel{2,036}{100.0}$ | 30.5 |
| Classical <br> Music | $203$ | $176$ | 54.4 | $121 \quad 17.4$ | $119$ | $78 \quad 11.2$ | 28.3 | ${ }^{697} 100.0$ | 10.4 |
| Dance | $46 \quad 19.3$ | $59$ | 44.1 | $5_{22.7}$ | $5_{22}$ | ${ }^{25} 10.5$ | 33.2 | $\stackrel{238}{ } 100.0$ | 3.6 |

Non-response: 326 respondents or $4.7 \%$ of the total sample of 7,010 .
(c) IE and Sex of Respondent

Females comprised $59.6 \%$ of the audience members who responded to questionnaires, while males made up the remaining $40.4 \%$. In the "Very High" and "High" exposure categories, women were somewhat over-represented, but only slightly. The opposite was true in the "Moderate" to "Very Low" exposure categories, where males were over-represented. Thus even though males were not as likely to be among the audience members, of those who were, their exposure levels to the performing arts were different, but not significantly so, except for males in the combined "Low" and "Very Low" category, where they were over-represented by slightly over $5 \%$.

The over-representation of females at performing arts events is consistent with results from other studies. Females tend to attend performing arts events to a greater degree than do males. Males that do attend performing arts events, therefore, are likely to be interested in the arts.

TABLE 8: Index of Exposure and Sex of Respondent


Non-response (Sex): 439 or $6.3 \%$ of the total sample of 7,010 .

## (d) IE and Age

The largest single group of respondents were in the 25 to 34 age category. This group, along with the category encompassing the younger individuals, accounted for over $3 / 5$ of the performing arts audiences.

The youngest age group (15-19 years old) experienced the greatest degree of exposure to the performing arts -- over one-half of these respondents had very high or high exposure. The age groups displaying the smallest proportions of very high or high exposure were the 25-34 and the 65 and over age groups. Overall, except for the great deal of exposure to the performing arts displayed by the youngest age grouping, the differences in exposure among the other groups were neither large nor consistent in direction. Perhaps, performing arts audience members, regardless of age, are relatively well versed and experienced in the arts.

## TABLE 9: Index of Exposure and Age



Non-response: (Age) 817 or $11.6 \%$ of total sample of 7,010
(e) IE and Highest Level of Education Completed

The higher the level of education completed, the higher the index of exposure; conversley, the lower the level of education, the lower the exposure to the arts. This pattern is very clearly illustrated in Table 10. Respondents with university degrees and with post-graduate degrees were substantially over-represented in the "Very High" exposure category. 18.7\% of the respondents indicated that they had "Very High" arts exposure; 24.2\% of the respondents with university degrees and $26.9 \%$ of the respondents with post-graduate degrees fell into the "Very High" category. On the other hand, respondents in the categories "elementary", "some high school" and "high school graduate" were over-represented in the "Low" and "Very Low" spectrums of the index -- $37.0 \%$ of the sample were in lower exposure categories, while $54.6 \%$ of the "elementary", $47.4 \%$ of the "some high school" and $43.4 \%$ of the "high school graduate" educational levels were in the low exposure categories.

The rationale underlying the positive relationship between education and the degree of exposure to the performing arts has been discussed earlier in the paper. A person who has completed a higher level of formal education also is likely to have a broader education, including that obtained from an exposure to the arts. This, in turn, may be a function of the educational orientation of the child's parents, themselves having a high educational level and the life style and values conducive to exposing their children to the performing arts.

The audiences for the 79 performing arts events, had a wide spectrum of educational backgrounds - nearly $40 \%$ of the audiences had completed high school or less.

TABLE 10: Index of Exposure and Highest Level of Education Completed

| DEGREE OF EXPOSURE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Very <br> High | High | Subtotal (Very High \& High) | Moderate | Low | Very <br> Low | Subtotal <br>  <br> Very <br> Low) | Total | Percent by Level of Education |
|  | \# \% | \# \% | \% | \# \% | \# \% | \# \% | \% | \# \% | \% |
| TOTAL | 1,236 ${ }^{18.7}$ | ,563 73 |  | $1,361$ | $1,267 \text { 10 }$ | ,170 17 |  | $6,597$ |  |
|  | 18.7 | 23.7 | 42.4 | $20.6$ | $19.3$ | -17.7 | 37.0 | $100.0$ | 100.0 |
| LEVEL OF EDUCATION |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Elementary | $24 \quad 15.8$ | 2315.1 | 30.9 | 2214.5 | 3724.3 | 4630.3 | 54.6 | ${ }^{152} 100.0$ | 2.3 |
| Some High School | 11612.9 | 16918.7 | 31.6 | 18921.0 | 18520.6 | ${ }^{241} 26.8$ | 47.4 | ${ }^{900} 100.0$ | 13.6 |
| High School Graduate | 20213.2 | 323 21.1 | 34.3 | 34222.3 | 33121.6 | ${ }^{336} 21.8$ | 43.4 | $1,534100.0$ | 23.3 |
| Some College or University | 25520.4 | ${ }^{319} 25.5$ | 45.9 | 26621.3 | 21417.0 | 19815.8 | 32.8 | $1,252100.0$ | 19.0 |
| College Degree | 11117.1 | $177 \quad 27.4$ | 44.5 | 14822.8 | 12519.3 | 8713.4 | 32.7 | 648 100.0 | 9.8 |
| University Degree | 350 | ${ }^{392} 27.1$ | 51.3 | 26818.5 | 25917.8 | 17912.4 | 30.2 | $1,448100.0$ | 21.9 |
| Post-Graduate Degree | ${ }^{178} 26.9$ | $160 \quad 24.1$ | 51.0 | $126 \quad 19.0$ | $116 \quad 17.5$ | 8312.5 | 30.0 | $6_{100.0}$ | 10.1 |

Non-Response: (level of education) 413 or $5.9 \%$ of total sample of 7,010 .

## (f) IE and Distance Factors

It was hypothesized that respondents who had early experiences with the performing arts also would be the ones who would "inconvenience" themselves most in order to get to a performance. That is, they would travel farther and would travel especially for a performance. Three questions in the survey instrument allowed one to get at this aspect.

- IE and Residence of Respondent

As one would expect, the majority of the audience members lived "in the same city as the performance" (49.4\%) or "near the city of the performance" (22.9\%). Approximately twelve percent of the audience members came from "out of the province" or "out of the country".

The highest rates of early exposure to the performing arts, however, were experienced by the "visitors" to the country or province. Individuals living in the city of the performance also experienced high rates of exposure. A combination of "High" and "Very High" exposure exceeded the sixteen-community rate of $41.4 \%$ for these three population sub-categories.

Individuals from another country and province, obvsiously are attending a performance while travelling. These same people like would be higher educated and have higher incomes than the average individual, thus a partial explanation of their high exposure. (Table 11)

- IE and Reasons Non-Residents Travelled to the City

In Table 12 we see that 2,976 respondents indicated that they travelled to the city -- nearly $3 / 5$ of these respondents came especially for the performance; the remainder came for a vacation ( $33.8 \%$ ) or a small portion came for business reasons (7.5\%). When looking at the index of early exposure for the various subgroups, a distinctive patter emerges. Respondents who travelled to the city for a "vacation" or "business reasons" had greater childhood exposure to the performing arts than did their counterparts who came especially for the performance.

- IE and Time Required to Travel to the Performance

Respondents who took under 30 minutes to get to the performance (from their residence or place they were staying) also were more likely to have experienced higher rates of early exposure to the performing arts. These categories probably contain respondents who "resided in the same city as the performance" and who "came from another province or country" (Table 11), categories that previously displayed high exposure rates.

TABLE 11: Index of Exposure and Residence of Respondent


Non-response: (Residence of Respondent) 118 or $1.7 \%$ of the total sample of 7,010 .

## TABLE 12: Index of Exposure and Reasons Non-Residents Travelled to the City



Non-response: (Reasons Non-Residents Travelled) 4,034 or $57.6 \%$ of the total sample of 7,010 .

TABLE 13: Index of Exposure and Time Required to Travel to the Performance


Non-response: (Time to Travel) 186 or $2.7 \%$ of the total sample of 7,010 .

## IE and Information and Behavioural Characteristics

The final set of factors related to the Index of Exposure concerns items associated with attendance at the event surveyed or at future performing arts events. In all instances it was hypothesized that factors that required "sophistication" or "study" would be more important among high exposure respondents compared with their low exposure counterparts.

- IE and Source of Information (Table 14)

The first question dealt with sources of information about the performance. From a list of ten possible responses (including "other"), respondents were asked to identify their main information source. For the entire sample, "friends and relatives" (38.9\%) and "newspapers and magazines" (20.3\%) were main information sources.

Differences in the degrees of exposure were observed among the numerous responses. "Newspapers and magazines", "tourist bureau", "posters and billboards", "other" and "I just knew" had larger proportions of higher exposure respondents than displayed in the national average. "Radio", "television", "friends and relatives", "direct mail advertisements", and "subscription" were more frequently cited by low exposure individuals. The response "I just knew" had slightly higher rates for both the higher and the lower exposure individuals.

- IE and Reasons for Attending the Performance (Table 15)

Individuals also were requested to indicate the importance of a number of specified reasons for attending the performance. Multiple responses were possible and in total there were 26,728 responses indicating that the given reasons were "important" or "very important" in attending. The responses that were identified as being of primary importance were: "just wanted to attend" ( $13.5 \%$ of the responses); "company or group performing" (10.2\%); "performers" (10.9\%) ; and, "work being performed" (10.9\%).

The response patterns for high and low exposure groups were compared for the various reasons.
"Company or group performing", "work being performed", "director/ conductor, composer/playwright/choreographer", and "free ticket/ticket as a gift", "convenient location of performance" and "other" were slightly over-represented with regard to respondents who had "High" or "Very High" early exposure. "Performers", "invited by another person or group", "friends or relatives reports", "just wanted to attend" and "subscription tickets/go regularly" had slightly higher representations of low exposure individuals. Thus there was a slight tendency for the high exposure group to be more aware of and concerned with factors associated with the performance; while for the low exposure groups, "inter-personal" factors were more important.

- IE and Reasons Respondent Would Attend More Frequently (Table 16)

Respondents were also asked to indicate what factors would increase their attendance at performing arts events. Multiple responses were again possible. For the entire sample, "tickets less expensive" (16.2\%); "performances given more often" (15.2\%) ; and "better information about performances available" (13.9\%) were cited most frequently.

Within each response category, differences between the respondents in the varying exposure categories were observed.

Respondents with higher rates of exposure were more likely to cite:

- performance quality higher;
- public transportation more convenient;
- halls and theatres more attractive and comfortable;
- better information available.
- Those with lower rates of exposure were more likely to cite:
- tickets less expensive;
- cheaper total cost;
- more convenient location;
- tickets easier to obtain;
- performance times more convenient;
- groups organized;
- other.

In general, the higher exposure respondents appear to place less emphasis on costs and convenience than do the lower exposure respondents. Higher exposure respondents, however, see quality and information as being more important. Perhaps, this pattern does suggest further analysis: if differences in reasons for future attendance at performing arts events does exist between high and lower exposure groups, suggestions for marketing can be made.

TABLE 14: Index of Exposure and Source of Information


Non-response: (Source of Information) 71 or $1.0 \%$ of the total sample of 7,010 .

TABLE 15: Index of Exposure and Reasons for Attending the Performance


Non-response: (Reasons for Attendance) 163 or $2.3 \%$ of total sample of 7,010 .

TABLE 16: Index of Exposure and Reasons Respondent Would Attend More Frequently


Non-response: (Increased Attendance) 1,337 or 19.1\% of the total sample of 7,010.

When beginning the analysis of the responses of Canadians in the 1978 survey of performing arts audiences, the question was asked about the impact of early exposure on adult attendance at, and enjoyment of, the performing arts. The results have shown that most people in performing arts audiences have had early exposure, and that the degree differs with the community, the type of event, sex, age, and the degree of formal education. However, attitudes toward attending performances do not necessarily vary much with the degree of early exposure.

Further analysis of particular interest would include a more specific examination of community differences. The differences were somewhat obscured by the general nature of analysis. In addition, analysis which could explore the early exposure patterns of frequent versus infrequent attendance at performing arts events would have direct usefulness for planning programs to capture performing arts audiences. Finally, in order to effectively assess the impact of early exposure on adult attitudes and attendance at the performing arts, long term study of of the effects of the performing arts on children would be valuable.

## Appendix I

PERFORMING ARTS AUDIENCES:
SUMMER 1978
A. Survey Background
B. Survey Instrument

## PERFORMING ARTS AUDIENCES: SUMMER 1978

## SURVEY BACKGROUND

During the summer of 1978 the Arts and Culture Branch of the Secretary of State Department sponsored a survey of audiences for the performing arts. The audience survey was one of three components of a larger project, "Canadians and the Arts", conducted in 18 Canadian communities under the auspices of the Summer Job Corps program, Employment and Immigration Commission.

Performances in sixteen communities across Canada were included in the study; two communities, Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, were eliminated from the original list because no performances were scheduled there at the time of the survey. The communities where audiences were surveyed and the number of performances involved were as follows: Barrie, Ontario (4); Brandon, Manitoba (4); Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island (2); Chicoutimi, Quebec (4); Cornwall, Ontario (2); Drummondville, Quebec (5); Edmonton, Alberta (15); Edmundston, New Brunswick (1); Fredericton, New Brunswick (6); London, Ontario (4); Moncton, New Brunswick (1); Quebec City, Quebec (9); Rimouski, Quebec (4); Trois-Rivières, Quebec (1); Truro, Nova Scotia (3); Victoria, British Columbia (14).

Performing arts events at which audiences were surveyed were chosen on the basis of management's willingness to have their audiences surveyed along with the frequency of occurrence in the community. If possible, audiences representing the entire range of events occurring in the community were to be surveyed: this included free and priced performances; indoor and outdoor events; day and evening performances; and, performances utilizing amateur or professional talent.

Prior to the performance, members of the Summer Job Corps project distributed the questionnaires, which were completed and returned shortly thereafter.

The number of questionnaires distributed at each performance varied according to the age and size of the audience. In general, only people 15 years or older were surveyed. In small audiences of one hundred or less, all possible respondents were given questionnaires. The number of questionnaires distributed decreased to one-half or one-third in larger audiences. During the course of the survey, 79 different audiences were surveyed. This resulted in a total of 7,010 completed and returned questionnaires.

## APPENDIX B: SURVEY INSTRUMENT



This questionnaire is part of a survey entitled "Canadians and the Arts". It is being conducted in 18 communities across the country. We would appreciate it greatly if you would take a few minutes to complete the entire questionnaire.

It is important that the questionnaire be completed by the person to whom it was given. If you are attending with a friend or relative, PLEASE DO NOT GIVE THE QUESTIONNAIRE TO THAT PERSON OR FILL IT OUT TOGETHER. To ensure valid results, it is imperative that you, the person to whom the questionnaire was handed, answer for yourself. Your name is not requested and you will in no way be identified. We hope that you will answer all the questions as accurately as possible.

Upon completion leave the questionnaire with representatives of the Summer Job Corps Project, Canadians and the Arts.

Thank you very much for your co-operation.

| Office use only |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| COMMUNITY \# | $\square$ |  |  |  |
| DATE |  |  |  |  |

PLEASE RESPOND TO ALL QUESTIONS AS ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE BY CIRCLING THE NUMBER CORRESPONDING TO THE BEST RESPONSE OR FILLING IN THE SPACE PROVIDED.

1. How did you find out about this performance?
potfice MAIN SOURCE OF INFORMATION ONLY

Newspapers \& magazines . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 0
Radio
01
02
Television
03
Friends, relatives, aspociates . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 04
Tourist Buresu 05
Posters, billboards
06
Direct mail ads
07
Subscription solicitations
I just know 08 09
Other (epecify)
2. HOW IMPORTANT WAS EACH of the following in your decision to come to this performance?

| Company/group performing Performers |
| :---: |
| Work being performed Director/conductor |
| Composer/playwright/choreographer |
| Low ticket price |
| Free ticket/ticket a gift |
| Invited by another person/group |
| Critics, reviews |
| Friends'/relatives' reports |
| Advertisements/publicity |
| Entertaining out-of-town quests |
| Convenient location of performance |
| Just wanted to come . . . . . |
| Have subscription tickets/go regularily |
| Other (epecify) |

## Work being performed

Composer/playwright/choreographer
Free ticket/ticket a gift


## 3. Are you sttending this performance

## Alone <br> With friend(s)/relativels) <br> With children

3
With an orgenized group
4. If NOT alone, how many people sre there in your group?

5. How did you come to this performance from where you live or are stoving?

| Car (personal. friend's, relative's) <br> City bus <br> Walked <br> Taxi <br> Train/Bus <br> Combination (specify) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

6. Where do you live?

7. If from outside this city/hown, why did you corme to town?


For business reasons
2
3
8. Approximately hiw long did it take you to get here? (From home: if in or near city; From where you are stoying: if othen)


ANSWER QUESTION O ONLY IF THERE WAS AN AOMISSION CHARGE
9. Indicate the MAIN REASON you selected aticket at the price you paid.

10. Approximetely how much will be apent on this occasion per perzon in your party (it applicable)
or by yourself on the following:

## Ticket <br> Transportation


11. Have you ever taken courues (school, club, private) in music. theatre or dance?

| YES | NO |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 2 |
| YES | NO |
| 1 | 2 |
|  |  |
| YES | NO |
| 1 | 2 |

Meal and beverages (away from home)

## Babysitter

$\qquad$
$39-42$
43-46
47.50
14. Approximately how old were you when you first came to a performance like this?

Under 6
6-9 years old1

0 0 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 2
10-12 years old
13-15 vesrs old
16 years or over

15 For which of the following ressons would you artend more live performances in a similar -rtistic discipline?


| Office |
| :---: |
| use |
| only |
| 59 |
| 60 |
| 61 |
| 62 |
| 63 |
| 64 |
| 65 |
| 66 |
| 67 |
| 68 |
| 69 |
| 70 |
| 71 |

16. Year of Birth

IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND ANO ANALYZE THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE ALREADY PROVIDED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING SOME PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU. AS INDICATED, YOU ARE NOT PERSONALLY IDENTIFIED AND THE ARE NOT INFORMATION WILL TREATEO CONFIDENTIALLY.

17. Marital Siatus

| Never Married | 1 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Now married | 2 |
| Separated | 3 |
| Divorced | 4 |
| Widowed | 6 |
| Other | 6 |

18. Highest level of Education Completed

19. Employmen: Status

Currently self-employed . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1

Homemaker . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 3
Student . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
Currently unemployed . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 5
Retired . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 6
20. Occupational Group

Semiskilied or labourer . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1

Sales. Service. Clerical . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 3
Professional
Junior Managerial or Administrative . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 5
Senior Managerial or Administrative . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
Other (specify) 7
21. Sex

22. Total income before saxes linclude yourself \& immediste family)




[^0]:    * Non-response: Individuals who did not answer the particular question(s) under consideration.

