

Music Is Demanding Career For Its Women Disciples

By OLIVE DICKASON

Nine dedicated women play for Les Concerts Symphoniques. Three of them are cellists, two play violas, two are harpists, one is a violinist and one plays the piano, celeste or glockenspiel... whichever is needed.

These women, who have been with the symphony for periods ranging from two to 16 years, don't worry about such impossible things as a nine-to-five day... their time is almost completely taken up with their careers.

This is the sort of Sunday they're liable to have: 9-11 a.m.: symphony practice; 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.: practice with Roland Leduc's Little Symphony; 3-7 p.m.: rehearsal with Guiseppe Agostini for Les Etoiles Futures; 7-8 p.m.: Roland Leduc again... this time on the air; 9-10 p.m.: on the air with Les Futures Etoiles.

Every other day in the week is likely to be as bad as Sunday.

Full Life

During the winter season, Les Concerts Symphoniques puts on 12 concerts, each of which requires 10 hours practice from those taking part; in the summer, the musicians play at the Chalet for five con-

certs. Between these performances they make radio appearances and teach.

It makes for a full life . . . and the women who are members of the symphony are as serious about their careers as any of their male confreres.

This year, for the first time in Montreal, the women symphony players all wore similar ensembles while giving performances. Marie-Therese Paquin originated the idea, which was quickly taken up by the rest.

It was agreed that the outfits, while still keeping their femininity, should have a similar over-all effect to the full dress worn by the men.

A design was found . . . by Paris coutourier Paquin, who is no relation at all to Miss Paquin.

So this season the women musicians have appeared in their black and white Paquin two-piece creations with long, full skirts.

Everyone agrees that from the view-point of appearance at least, the result has been an improvement in Les Concerts Symphoniques.

Piggy-bank Parade