

CANADIAN MUSICIANS

hit high notes around the world

Canadian musicians include Aboriginal composers of world music, Acadians who fuse Celtic and modern rhythms, Québécois chamber players, Torontonians who perform on authentic baroque instruments, and many other musically and culturally diverse groups and individuals across the country. More than ever today, they are earning bravos at home and around the world.

Two weeks after the September 11 terrorist attacks, Quebec City's Les Violons du Roy brought a moving concert to New Yorkers. The chamber orchestra's program had been fixed the previous spring, with two works on the bill: Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* (initially called "Mass in Time of Stress") and Mozart's *Requiem*. The choice turned out to be uncannily appropriate. As artistic director Bernard Labadie told the audience, he would still have picked this

program, with its elements of fear and hope, death and comfort. Les Violons du Roy has been widely praised for its energy, brilliance and (especially in this performance) its emotional intensity. Since 1988 the group has made over 100 concert appearances in Europe, Morocco, Canada and the United States.

DEAIT is helping to fund a planned 2003 tour of the United States and Ecuador.

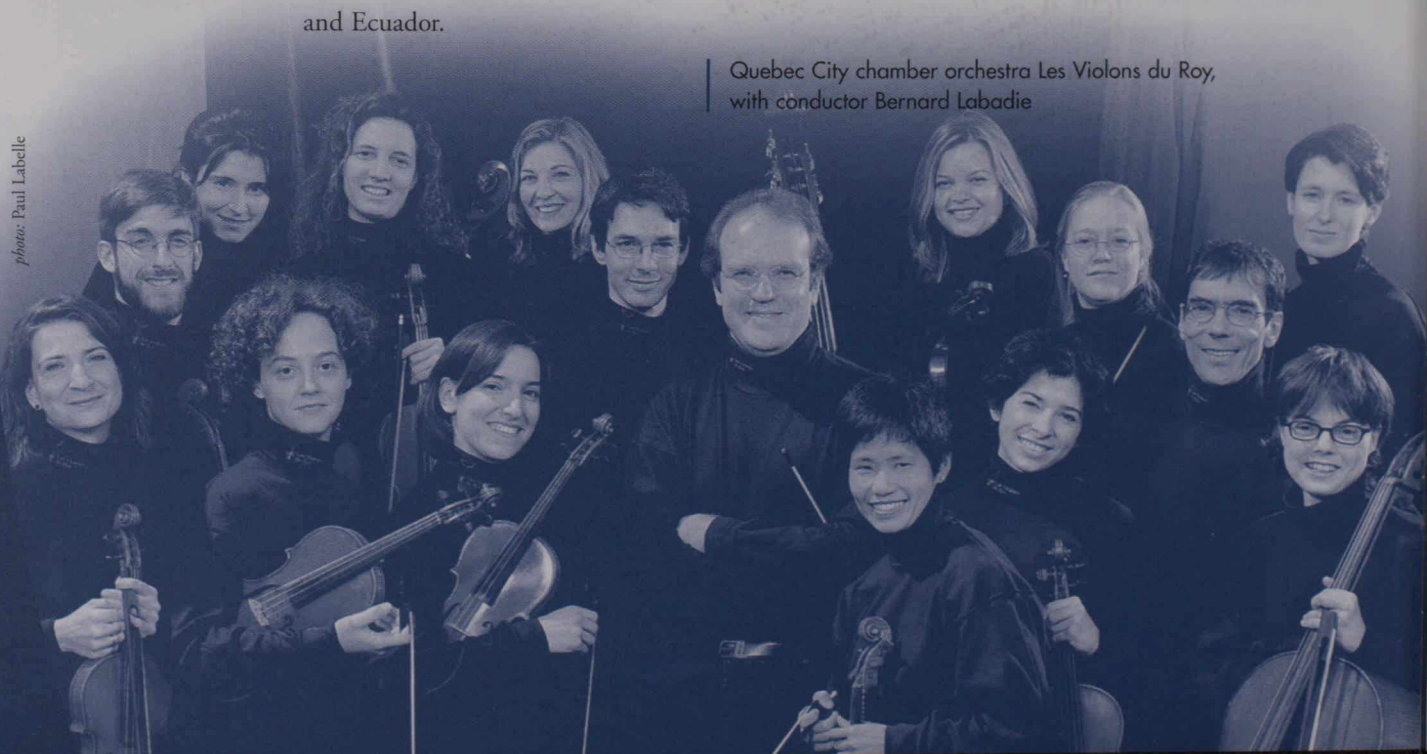
At the other end of the globe and the musical spectrum is Matthew Lien, a composer and performer of Aboriginal-inspired world music. The Yukon musician is enjoying phenomenal—and, for a foreigner, unprecedented—popularity in Taiwan. After an earthquake devastated the island in 1999, his "Rebuilding Formosa" benefit concert drew a crowd of 30,000 to Taipei. With financial assistance from DEAIT and logistical support from the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei, Lien returned for an anniversary concert in the fall of 2000. During his various tours, the Taiwanese have heaped honours on Lien, naming him "Ambassador to Aboriginal Culture."

DEAIT provides support for performances abroad of music by new Canadians and Canadians of diverse backgrounds. In 2002, for example, Khac Chi—Sounds of Vietnam toured Malaysia, Brunei and Belgium, where the husband-and-wife duo gained plaudits. Based in Canada since 1992, the ensemble seeks to bring traditional Vietnamese music to Western audiences.



Yukon composer and performer
Matthew Lien

photo: Paul Labelle



Quebec City chamber orchestra Les Violons du Roy,
with conductor Bernard Labadie