

The Department of External Affairs announced today that popular singers GERRY and ZIZ from Manitoba have begun a four-week tour of Africa which will take them to Algeria, Senegal and the Ivory Coast. The performances are arranged by the Canadian embassies in these countries. The concert tour starts in early October in Algiers and concludes with performances in Dakar and Abidjan before the end of the month.

The French Canadian musicians, Gerry Paquin and Gerard Jean (Ziz) come from St. Boniface, Manitoba, and have performed from the East to the West coasts of Canada over the three years they have worked together. In 1973, they were winners in the National Song Festival held in Granby, Quebec; in 1974, they represented Manitoba at the "Superfrancofête" in Quebec City and in 1974-75 they participated in the St. Boniface Festival du Voyageur and in Festival Canada (Ottawa). Gerry and Ziz have toured extensively in the West, and under a grant from the Council of Ministers of Education, they have performed in universities throughout the Maritime provinces and Quebec. Their television and radio exposure is equally varied, from children's programmes, to talk shows, to the broadcast of the Olympic Lottery draw, to their own show. An album of their songs - "Finalement" - was released in April 1976, produced by the singers themselves and recorded in Winnipeg. Their songs have elements of classical, jazz, blues and rock-and-roll music with Gerry singing and playing the guitar and Ziz accompanying on keyboard instruments.

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