

# News of the arts

## Second European tour by NAC Orchestra

The National Arts Centre Orchestra founded in 1969, will begin its second European tour, which will last about a month, in April 1978, with concerts in both Germany and Italy.

Under the direction of conductor Mario Bernardi, the orchestra will give 12 concerts in Germany, including performances at such major centres as Berlin, Bonn, Frankfurt and Stuttgart. Eight concerts will be given in Italy, three of them in Sicily.

The tour will be under the auspices of the Department of External Affairs and will be co-ordinated by the Touring Office of the Canada Council and David Haber Artists Management Inc.

Two of Canada's leading musicians (both of whom have performed with the ensemble on many occasions) will be soloists with the orchestra — pianist Anton Kuerti and violinist Steven Staryk.

At least three Canadian works will be performed during the tour. Two will

be newly-commissioned compositions by Harry Somers and R. Murray Schafer and the third will be the *Third Symphony* by Jacques Hétu, which the orchestra has performed with great success both in Ottawa and elsewhere.

## Jubilee gold coin

A Toronto artist's design will appear on the reverse of the \$100 gold coin that will be struck to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the accession to the Throne of Queen Elizabeth II. Raymond Lee's submission depicts the official flowers of Canada's provinces and territories; he describes it as "characteristically Canadian, reflecting the beauty and graciousness of the Queen." The selection of this design from 56 submissions was announced by Supply and Services Minister Jean-Pierre Goyer, who reports to Parliament for the Royal Canadian Mint.

The obverse of the 22-karat coin, containing half an ounce of gold, will bear Machin's effigy of the Queen and

the inscription "Silver Jubilee — Elizabeth II 1952-1977 — 25 ans de règne." The coin, 27 mm in diameter, will be issued in September.

Mr. Goyer said 26 Canadian artists had been invited last month to submit designs. A selection committee of artists and numismatists screened the submissions and then passed on recommendations to the Mint Board of Directors, who made the final choice.

## Book about whales

A group of distinguished Canadian poets and artists have collaborated on a book about whales, the profits of which will be donated to the Greenpeace Foundation.

The work, published by Dreadnaught Press, includes original art from Harold Town, William Kurelek, Ken Danby, Walter Redinger and others, as well as poems by Margaret Atwood, Irving Layton, Susan Musgrave, Tom Wayman and more. The book makes a strong artistic statement about the need to prevent the extinction of the whale.

## Money for Post-sponsored projects

Canada will spend \$16 million on small projects administered by Canadian embassies in developing countries in 1977-78. The Mission Administered Fund (MAF) enables embassies to respond quickly to local requests for assistance. The funds, from CIDA's regular bilateral grant allocations, are limited to a maximum of \$25,000 a project, and are usually given to such organizations as community or agricultural co-operatives, village development committees, hospitals, schools, and recognized non-governmental organizations working in the country.

The committees generally use the funds to meet very basic needs. In a small village in the Sico valley on the north coast of Honduras, the inhabitants found themselves isolated from the regional centre at Limón by inadequate transportation. The 4,000 people in the area lacked schools, hospitals and means to take produce to market. Yet the potential for better communications existed: a railway left unattended and in disrepair after the United Fruit

Company left the area years before. What was needed was the means to convert it to a road.

One of the haciendas in the area used caterpillar tractors to work the land, but after Hurricane "Fifi" in 1975 the tractors were buried in silt. The owner offered to donate one of them to the local people for repair of the railway bed on the condition that they find the means to recover it, repair it and provide fuel for it. The townspeople applied to the Canadian Embassy for the funds and received about \$4,200. The people did the work themselves, and they now have a road that gives access to the market in Limón. The improved communications have prompted the Government to provide a school, a small clinic and an agricultural adviser who is helping the farmers improve crop yields. In another part of Honduras, 20 agricultural co-operatives received about \$16,000 to install hand pumps in small villages where there was a serious need of drinking water.

In Costa Rica, the mission supplied \$5,000 for the purchase of outboard motors for small boats used by the

## Governor General attends Jubilee events in London

Governor-General and Mrs. Léger left Ottawa for London on June 5 for a five-day visit to attend special ceremonies to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

Their schedule included a thanksgiving service at St. Paul's Cathedral on June 7, followed by a luncheon given in the Queen's honour by the Lord Mayor of London at the Guildhall.

Mr. and Mrs. Léger planned to view other Jubilee events taking place during the week, including an illuminated pageant and fireworks display on the River Thames, and to attend a lunch given in their honour by Canadian High Commissioner Paul Martin and Mrs. Martin on June 9.

Ministry of Health to service parts of the country accessible only by water.

The lengthy list of MAF projects affects 84 countries in the developing world.