

NAC ORCHESTRA  
TO TOUR  
EUROPE



Members of the National Arts Centre Orchestra.

The Orchestra of the National Arts Centre, Ottawa, under the direction of its conductor Mario Bernardi, will undertake its first European tour in May and June 1973, making appearances in Britain, France, Poland, and the Soviet Union.

Formed in September 1969 as the resident ensemble of the Arts Centre in Canada's capital, the Orchestra will be in its fourth season when it crosses the Atlantic to perform in some eight major cities and to take part in the four great music festivals at Bath, Versailles, Llandaff (Wales), and Warsaw. This major tour by the young Orchestra, made possible with the assistance of the Department of External Affairs, follows by one year after the Orchestra's highly successful New York debut at Lincoln Center, where it won the acclaim of some of the top United States music critics. The Orchestra plans to perform its first European concert in Warsaw on May 16, 1973, during the International Festival of Chamber Music.

An invitation to the Orchestra for a three-week tour of the Soviet Union, with all its touring expenses paid, had to be declined because of prior commitments in England and Wales. However, it plans to spend six days in the Soviet Union, from May 17 to 22, for concerts in Moscow, Leningrad, and one other major city still to be determined. The Soviet authorities have also agreed to pay the Orchestra's travelling expenses from the U.S.S.R. to London, the next stop on its itinerary.

In England the Orchestra will open the Bath Festival on May 25 with a performance in the historic

Abbey, which will then be celebrating the thousandth anniversary of the crowning there of the first king of all England. The artistic director of the Bath Festival is Sir Michael Tippett, the well-known British composer.



Mario Bernardi, resident conductor