

appearance of New York's prestigious Metropolitan Opera, which is celebrating its one-hundredth birthday this year. The company, visiting Toronto for the first time in almost 20 years, will be conducted by James Levine. Stars such as Plácido Domingo, Renata Scotto, Marilyn Horne, Sherrill Milne, Jon Vickers, Cornell MacNeil and Leona Mitchell will present seven different operas in six days, including Benjamin Britten's *Peter Grimes*, Zandonai's *Francesca da Rimini*, Verdi's *Ernani*, Wagner's *Die Walküre*, Mozart's *Abduction from the Seraglio*, Puccini's *Tosca* and Handel's *Rinaldo*.

The Hamburg Ballet will make its Canadian debut with three ballets: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Mahler's *Third Symphony* and *Saint Matthew Passion*, all choreographed by artistic director John Neumeier.

Dance theatre

The festival will also feature dance theatre from around the world. The Kathakali Dance Drama, a unique traditional dance form, will dramatize stories drawn from Hindu mythology in colourful costumes and elaborate makeup.

The Japanese dance company Sankai Juku will perform two programs: *Kinkan Shonen*, a young boy's dream of the origins of life and death, and *Jomon Sho*, a homage to pre-history.

The Ottawa-based National Arts Centre Orchestra will perform an all-Mozart program under the baton of its principal conductor, Franco Mannino, while the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, celebrating its fiftieth birthday this year,



Virtuoso pianist Oscar Peterson.



Al Simmons will perform his vaudeville acts in streets, squares and parks.

will make its Roy Thomson Hall debut. With conductor Charles Dutoit at the helm, the orchestra will perform two evening concerts, one of which will include Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique* and the other, Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du Printemps*. In addition, the ever-popular Canadian Brass will perform a world premiere for the festival combining chamber music, ragtime, rock, jazz, opera and classical music.

Festival highlight

One major highlight of the festival will be the Toronto Symphony, which, together with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and soloists Florence Quivar, James Morris and Mark DuBois, will bring to



Toronto's Nexus (above) will join with Montreal's Repercussion in Supercession in two concerts at Roy Thomson Hall.

life Berlioz's *Romeo and Juliet*. The Mendelssohn Choir will also perform Handel's oratorio *Alexander's Feast* and the 340-voice Mormon Tabernacle Choir will make its first appearance in Toronto since 1969 performing two different programs, one of popular music and the other featuring classical choral music.

Great percussion event

The festival will also feature one of the great percussion events of the century when Toronto's Nexus and Montreal's Repercussion join forces in *Supercussion* at two concerts in Roy Thomson Hall. There will be bright nights of jazz when Canada's virtuoso pianist, Oscar Peterson, the Modern Jazz Quartet and Jazz Guitar Greats, perform in a concert spanning the whole of jazz guitar spectrum, with a sextet of jazz guitarists Ed Bickert, Charlie Byrd, Herb Ellis, Marty Grosz, Barney Kessel and Joe Pass.

One of the Caribbean's finest steel bands, the Catelli Trinidad All Stars Steel Orchestra will give two concerts at Massey Hall, under conductor Gerry Jemmott, while the Shanghai Chamber Ensemble will create music from China, an exotic concert of traditional Chinese and Western music, performed on authentic Chinese instruments.

In addition to these major events, there will be 28 concerts held in churches and synagogues across the city at lunchtime and at twilight, and free concerts in parks.

The festival also plans to offer seminars, lecture demonstrations and performance workshops.



Leading ballerina Karen Kain.