

Canada Weekly

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TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL



For one entire month — beginning in June — Toronto will become the world capital of music and dance.

The Toronto International Festival, the biggest international cultural event ever held in Canada, will present over 175 performances by many of the world's finest musicians, singers and dancers in concert halls, theatres, churches and parks, throughout the city. It is part of the celebrations honouring Toronto's one-hundred-and-fiftieth birthday and the bicentennial of the province of Ontario.

There will be attractions for people of all ages, tastes and pocket-books. Canadian artists will share the limelight with some 3 000 artists from 17 countries including the United States, the Netherlands, England, Wales, Japan, Spain, India, China, France, Ghana,

South Korea, Austria and West Germany, many of whom have never before appeared in Toronto.

Participants

Among the Canadian and international artists and groups participating in the festival are: the Metropolitan Opera; the Toronto Symphony; Ottawa's National Arts Centre Orchestra; the Montreal Symphony Orchestra; the Canadian Opera Company; the National Ballet of Canada; Germany's Hamburg Ballet and Tanztheater Wuppertal — Direction Pina Bausch; the Toronto Dance Theatre; the Dance Theatre of Harlem; the Mormon Tabernacle Choir; the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir; India's Kathakali Dance Drama; Sankai Juku, a post-war dance company from Japan; Ontario's Nexus and Quebec's Repercussion; the Froncy-syllte Male Voice Choir of Wales; flamenco guitarist Paco de Lucia from Spain; Canada's Anton Kuerti and Maureen Forrester; New York's Bobby Short; Trinidad and Tobago's Catelli Trinidad All Stars Steel Orchestra; Shanghai Chamber Ensemble; Oscar Peterson and the Modern Jazz Quartet.

Special commissions

In recognition of the artistic contribution that has been made by the National Ballet of Canada and the Canadian Opera Company (COC), the festival has commissioned both companies to produce new works specially for the occasion. The National Ballet will present its *première* of John Cranko's ballet *Onegin* on June 14-17 and the COC's Canadian *première* of Benjamin Britten's opera *Death in Venice* will be held June 24-30.

The opening celebrations will be held at Ontario Place June 1, with a Celebration Concert featuring Maureen Forrester, an 800-voice choir with singers drawn from leading choirs throughout the province, including the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus and the Toronto Children's Chorus.

One of the top attractions will be the



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