

## Former Ottawa conductor leads Calgary orchestra



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Conductor Mario Bernardi now leads the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mario Bernardi, head of the National Arts Centre Orchestra for the past 13 years, took up the position of music director of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra in July.

Under the terms of his three-year contract Mr. Bernardi will lead the orchestra for 15 to 17 weeks each season and be responsible for all planning.

The president of the Calgary Philharmonic Society, James Palmer, said that "with the appointment of Mario Bernardi, the opportunities for the future of Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra are greater than they have ever been. The orchestra enters a new era of artistic development designed to bring to the citizens of Calgary and to the province of Alberta a symphony orchestra whose artistic standards will be recognized both nationally and internationally."

### Opera to be presented

Mr. Bernardi said he would like to see performers involved in chamber music and in opera under his direction and preliminary discussions have already been pursued with the Southern Alberta Opera Association. He also said that he hoped that the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra would be able to make recordings and tour during his tenure.

In accepting the position with the Calgary orchestra, Mr. Bernardi said he

was looking forward to "having his own orchestra and to see it grow and improve". He added that he was especially pleased to be taking on the responsibility for a full symphony orchestra after his years with the chamber-size National Arts Centre orchestra.

"I was also convinced last fall that there was locally the resolve, the tension, absolutely the will to have a good orchestra. Another thing that appeals to me is having the new arts centre. This will have an effect on the way the orchestra plays and the general outlook of the musicians," added Mr. Bernardi.

During his 13 years as the head of the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the orchestra grew to be considered by many as the best orchestra in Canada, and Mr. Bernardi was able to choose from the best — and most expensive — solo musicians in the world. He also led the operatic life of the capital, with frequent concert opera presentations and the staged productions of Festival Ottawa, Canada's only world-class summer music festival.

Mr. Bernardi replaced Hungarian-born Arpad Joo in Calgary, who resigned as artistic director to pursue recording and guest conducting engagements elsewhere. Mr. Joo will continue to lead the orchestra over the next two seasons as principal guest conductor.

## Video artists win prizes

Three Canadian video artists have won awards at home and abroad.

Teri Chmilar of Guelph, Ontario and Ardele Lister of Calgary, Alberta were winners at the recent Atlanta Annual Independent Film and Video Festival in Atlanta, Georgia. Chmilar was lauded for *Sudz*, a 33-minute humorous documentary about the laundromats of southwestern Ontario.

Lister was given an award by Atlanta TV station WSB for *Split*, a 21-minute narrative work about a 16-year-old girl at odds with her family and society. Both artists received grants from the Canada Council to produce their works.

*Split* also won one of the 27 prizes awarded in the fourth Tokyo Video Festival which included 741 entries from 20 countries. Lister's tape has also been chosen by Ithaca Video Projects for inclusion in the Ithaca Film Festival which will tour video centres in the United States, Canada, Europe and Japan this year.

In addition, a third artist Noel Harding of Toronto, was this year's recipient of the Toronto-Amsterdam Exchange Award. The annual prize was established in 1976 and provides an opportunity for Toronto artists to live, work and study in Amsterdam. The award is administered by the Albert Franck Committee appointed by Toronto City Council.

Harding plans to spend his time in Amsterdam writing the script for a theatre work, entitled *This is What*, which will be produced at Amsterdam's Micky Theatre in December. Harding is professionally represented in Toronto by the Ydessa Gallery and by Art Metropole.

## Arts brief

The National Youth Orchestra, under the musical direction of composer and conductor Marius Constant, completed its 11-city Canadian summer tour with a concert in Toronto on September 2. The tour was the most extensive by the orchestra in over a decade and honoured the Canada Council on its twenty-fifth anniversary. Major funding was provided by the Canada Council and a number of corporate sponsors including American Express Canada Incorporated, Gulf Canada Limited, Pacific Western Airlines and the Royal Bank of Canada.