



news release

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FAR EASTERN TOUR BY THE VANCOUVER CHAMBER CHOIR

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced a grant of \$70 000 to the Vancouver Chamber Choir for a concert tour of Japan and Korea from July 27 to August 23, 1994.

"The Vancouver Chamber Choir will compete in two world-class choral events and perform in a number of major Asian cities. Cultural exchanges are an important element of Canada's international relations and I wish the members of the Choir success as they represent Canada on this exciting tour," said Mr. Ouellet.

The Vancouver Chamber Choir has appeared with significant international success in China, Hong Kong, Finland and the former Soviet Union. In August 1993, the Choir hosted the third World Symposium on Choral Music and impressed 2000 delegates from approximately 50 countries with their artistry and musicianship. The invitations to compete in Japan and Korea are a result of their world-class performances at the Symposium.

Today, at a ceremony at Vancouver International Airport, Dr. Hedy Fry, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Centre, presented Vancouver Chamber Choir conductor Jon Washburn with a cheque, as the Choir embarked on its Far Eastern Tour.

This grant is provided under the International Cultural Relations Program of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. This program supports Canadian performing artists as well as initiatives in international higher education.

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1994 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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