

Sixty-four years of world class music



Toronto Symphony at the Roy Thomson Hall



The original Toronto Symphony orchestra was founded in the early 1900s by conductor Frank Welsman, but it had a very brief life. In 1918, it was unable to continue and had to be disbanded.

However, an interested group of Toronto musicians soon formed the New Symphony Orchestra, and it was from this second orchestra

that, in 1922, the Toronto Symphony eventually developed.

During the 1926/27 season, the orchestra changed its name to the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and in 1964 it changed it again to the Toronto Symphony.

In 1931, the orchestra came under the direction of Sir Ernest MacMillan, and during his 25-year tenure, both its concerts and its seasons became longer. Some of the greatest names in music — Sir Thomas Beecham, Sir Malcolm Sargent and Sir Adrian Boult among them — went to Toronto to conduct during those years.

In 1965, the Toronto Symphony acquired a new music director, Seiji Ozawa, a relatively unknown young conductor, whose tenure brought a procession of dazzling Japanese soloists to Toronto.

After a tour of Japan in 1969, Ozawa resigned and Karl Anserl, who had helped to build The Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, was brought in to replace him.

His death in 1973 left the orchestra without a music director, and for the following two seasons some of the world's most renowned conductors appeared on the podium.

In July 1974, Andrew Davis was appointed music director and officially commenced his duties in October 1975.

Since then, Davis has conducted the orchestra in Canada, the United States and Europe. In 1978, he led the orchestra to Japan and The People's Republic of China, and in 1977 he established annual visits to New York's Carnegie Hall.

Under his direction, the Toronto Symphony has recorded 25 albums on CBC and CBS Masterworks labels.

Davis has announced that he will be leaving his post as music director at the end of the 1987/88 season in order to devote more time to opera.

Although he plans to return annually as a guest conductor, the orchestra will soon have to face the challenge of finding a successor.

For the first 60 years of its life, the orchestra made its home in Toronto's Massey Hall, but in 1982, it moved its base to the newly built Roy Thomson Hall, only a few hundred yards away.

ROY
THOMSON
HALL

