

# The Toronto Symphony to appear at Proms and Edinburgh Festival

'A first-rate virtuoso orchestra,' writes the Financial Times.

'... orchestral playing of the great international class,' says the Sunday Times.

'... a splendid orchestra,' concludes The Times.

These are the kinds of reviews that The Toronto Symphony orchestra has been receiving, and they are the kinds of reviews that will do much to tempt music lovers across Europe to attend one or other of the performances that the orchestra will be giving later this year.

From August 26 to September 19, the orchestra — under the direction of conductor Andrew Davis — will be travelling to 11 European countries, giving a total of 17 performances.

Undoubtedly, two of the highlights of the tour will be the Symphony's appearances at the Edinburgh Festival (on August 26 and 28 at Usher Hall), and in the BBC's Promenade Concerts at the Royal Albert Hall (on September 1).

These dates will mark the first occasions on which a Canadian orchestra has played at two of the more important events in the UK musical calendar.

In addition, the orchestra will perform (on September 3) at St David's Hall in Cardiff. It will also play at concert venues in Ireland, West Germany, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and France.

## International pianists among guest artists

Four international pianists — Louis Lortie and Angela Hewitt from Canada, Yugoslavian-born Ivo Pogorelich and Maria Joao Pires from Portugal — will be among the guest artists who will join the orchestra for the European tour.

Louis Lortie will be making seven appearances during the tour, including his Promenade Concert debut on September 1, when he will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No 25 in C major, K 503. This concert will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 3.

Lortie will also perform in Cardiff — at a concert that BBC Television plans to broadcast. He will play Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat major, Op 19.

Lortie is a regular guest artist with the orchestra. He won rave reviews in London last November when he performed Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 4 with Andrew Davis and the London Symphony Orchestra.

Ivo Pogorelich will be making his Toronto Symphony debut at the August 26 concert at the Edinburgh Festival. He will play Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No 1 in B flat minor, Op 23.

## All-Stravinsky programme

The orchestra will be giving an all-Stravinsky programme at the Edinburgh Festival on August 28. It will be a unique presentation pairing Oedipus Rex with The Soldier's Tale.



Both of these works will be narrated by British-born actor John Neville (now artistic director of the Stratford Festival in Ontario). The Soldier's Tale will also feature the Leader of the English Chamber Orchestra, Jose-Luis Garcia; the principal players of the Toronto Symphony; and National Ballet stars Karen Kain and Peter Ottman, who will be dancing the roles of the Princess and the Soldier.

## Largest international project ever

The tour will be the largest international project in the 64-year history of the orchestra. It has been supported by the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa and by the Department of Citizenship and Culture in Ontario.

In addition, it has attracted an unprecedented level of commercial sponsorship from 11 international companies. They are: British Alcan Aluminium plc, Canadian Club (a division of Hiram Walker International Limited), Northgate Exploration Limited, Petro-Canada, The Royal Bank of Canada, Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, Tate and Lyle plc, VIAG Aktiengesellschaft, SKW Aktiengesellschaft and Wood Gundy Inc. POC Philips will present the orchestra's concert in Holland.

## Recording to coincide with tour

The Toronto Symphony's new EMI recording of Gustav Holst's The Planets will be released in the UK and throughout Europe to coincide with the tour.

The recording was completed in Canada earlier this year, and it marks the first-ever collaboration between Angel/EMI and the orchestra. The conductor is Andrew Davis.

Also featured on the record is The Toronto Children's Chorus.

Music Director and Conductor Andrew Davis