

Orford Quartet European tour

A grant from the Department of External Affairs has enabled The Orford Quartet to undertake a European tour this month. Under the Department's continuing program of cultural relations with foreign countries, the Quartet is performing in the U.S.S.R., Romania, Italy and Yugoslavia.

The trip to the Soviet Union, which began on October 3, is their first visit to the U.S.S.R. During their two-week stay, the Orford Quartet will perform in Moscow, Leningrad and four other cities. Meetings with the Soviet Union of Musicians and Composers are included in their itinerary.

Two concerts in Romania will follow. A recital from Bucharest will be broadcasted over the national radio and television network. The ensemble then proceeds to Rome for two concerts and to Yugoslavia for performances in Ljubljana and Zagreb. The Quartet has also accepted an invitation from Les Jeunesses Musicales of Spain for a recital in Barcelona.

The tour is presented by the Department of External Affairs with the assistance of the Canada Council Touring Office.

Ten years as a group

The four musicians, Andrew Dawes, violin, Kenneth Perkins, violin, Terence Helmer, viola, and Marcel St-Cyr, cello – first formed a professional quartet at the Jeunesses Musicales summer music camp at Mount Orford, Quebec. In July this year, they performed at the 1975 International Series at Mount Orford, marking their tenth anniversary as an ensemble. Since 1965, they have toured extensively through Canada and the United States; and, under the auspices of the Canada Council and the Department of External Affairs, have performed in most major European capitals and at numerous international festivals.

In 1974, they tied for first prize at the European Broadcasting Union Competition. This attracted offers from several important international agents, who heard the Quartet during a series of European concerts in April 1975. The tour coincided with the launching of their first major international recording by the Concert Hall company.

Canada honours French missionary

Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Judd Buchanan was in France September 22, where he presented a plaque honouring a French missionary who spent more than 20 years in the Canadian North.

Mr. Buchanan, on behalf of the Government of Canada, presented the plaque to the Mayor and citizens of Mareuil-lès-Meaux, about 30 miles from Paris, to commemorate the contributions made by Father Emile Petitot to scientific study of the North. Father Petitot, who spent the last 30 years of his life as parish priest in the town, died there in 1916.

Father Petitot, an oblate missionary, was 24 when he came to Canada in 1862 and began the first of many studies on the native peoples, their customs, language and environment. His works, highly acclaimed by the scientific community, are testimony to his affection for the North and its peoples. His published studies include observations in the fields of geography, linguistics, geology, anthropology, zoology, botany and paleontology. Father Petitot also made maps of the North and compiled dictionaries on the various native dialects, all of which have proved invaluable in the continuing study, development and exploration of the North.

"When we read Father Petitot's work, we hear the voice of a man who loved the North and its people and who was loved, in turn, by them," Mr. Buchanan said.

The Mayor of Mareuil-lès-Meaux, Jacques Beaudoin, was presented by Mr. Buchanan with a collection of photographs depicting the sketches and drawings which Father Petitot created during his life in the North.

Mr. Buchanan said that the presentation at Mareuil-lès-Meaux emphasized the historic relations between France and Canada and was particularly significant because of its timely association with present-day studies of Canada's developing North.

Veterans allowances rise

Increases in War Veterans Allowance and Civilian War Allowances for 156,000 persons went into effect October 1.

The scale of payments is subject to the total annual income of a recipient. Allowances paid in respect of children take into account any Family Allowance payments.

For a single veteran, the maximum monthly benefit rises \$6.73 to \$207.12. A married veteran gets \$11.52 more a month for a maximum of \$353.05 and the payment for each child goes up \$1.50 to \$55.24. In the case of a married veteran with two children, the annual income level goes to \$6,402.36 from \$6,228.12.

Because the maximum income level has increased for all categories more veterans and their dependants will become eligible. The maximum income levels are 2.8 percent higher than those in effect during the third quarter of the year.



Last days of summer

Learning to swim is fun! It's also safer – when using inflatable swimming aids developed by Dizard of Canada Limited, Toronto, Ontario.

The company's vinyl swim wings, like inflatable bladders attached to the upper arm, are in three sizes: for infants to six years, six to 12 years and 12 to adult. The company stresses that its inflatable products are not life preservers. They are "confidence-inspiring aids for beginners" to be used only under the supervision of experienced swimmers.

Dizard is participating in the Samples from Canada show in Australia.