

The Department of External Affairs announced today that an important cultural exchange has been agreed to in principle by Canada and the People's Republic of China. Two tours are currently in negotiation: The Toronto Symphony, under conductor Andrew Davis, will perform in the People's Republic of China commencing January 1978, and the Shanghai Dance Troupe will be in Canada for a tour in the 1977-78 season. Dates and venues of the tours will be announced at a later date.

Reference to this exchange was made in a speech delivered today by the Honourable Otto Lang, Minister of Transport representing the Prime Minister of Canada and the Secretary of State for External Affairs at the opening of the Norman Bethune House in Gravenhurst, Ontario. The ceremony was attended by a special delegation from the People's Republic of China.

Now in its 55th season, and the second year under the young British virtuoso Andrew Davis as Music Director, the Toronto Symphony is one of Canada's senior orchestras with a wide international reputation gained from tours in North America, Europe and Japan.

The Canadian visit by the Shanghai Dance Troupe will be its first appearance in the western world. The company of 150 dancers performs traditional Chinese dance on contemporary revolutionary themes.

This exchange of major performing companies from both countries, marks a particular significant development in the growing program of Canada/Chinese cultural relations.

Information:

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