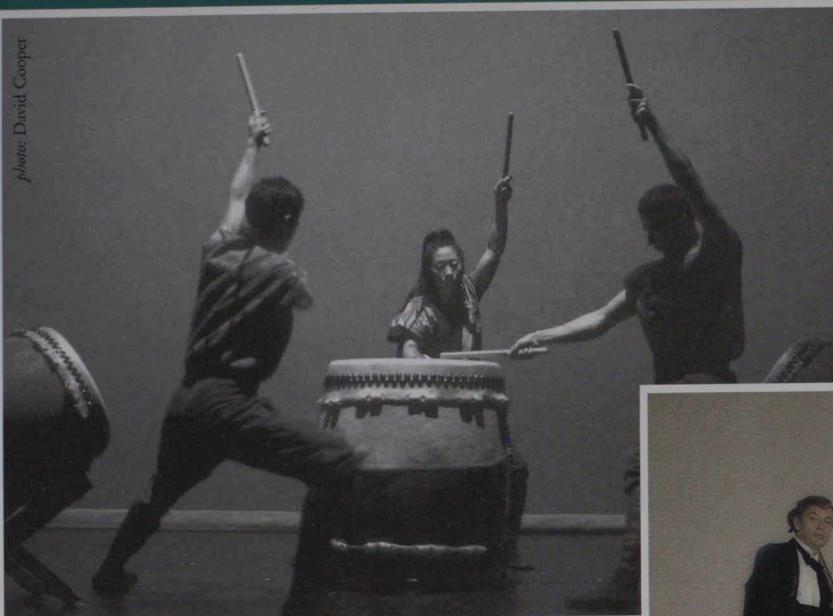


photo: David Cooper



Vancouver's Japanese-influenced Uzume Taiko

More eclectic is Uzume Taiko of Vancouver, British Columbia, which combines the choreographed physicality of martial arts, the heart-stopping pulse of Japanese *taiko* drumming and the rhythmic sensitivity of a jazz ensemble. Canada's first professional *taiko* group, Uzume has toured Europe and Japan with support from D_{FAIT}'s Arts and Cultural Industries Promotion Division.

A percussion ensemble of a different kind is TUYO of Montreal, Quebec, a group of musicians who perform on instruments of their own devising. D_{FAIT} has provided funding for them to tour abroad, with their most recent visit being to France this February.

Again in 2002, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra of Toronto, Ontario, marked its 10th anniversary as the orchestra-in-residence of Germany's Klang und Raum Festival in Irsee. One German reviewer praised the group for "both technical perfection and delight in music-making." With D_{FAIT} assistance, Tafelmusik has performed in two dozen countries in the past 20 years.

Equally celebrated is I Musici de Montréal. Under the guidance of artistic director Yuli Turovsky, who also performs as solo cellist, the Montreal chamber ensemble has played the world's major concert halls: Lincoln Center in New York, the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels, Tokyo's Kioi Hall, Geneva's Victoria Hall, and the Gewandhaus in Leipzig. I Musici's 1992 recording of Handel's Concerti Grossi, Opus 6 set the standard. This past February the group toured the United States.

Contemporary music is the specialty of Montreal's Nouvel Ensemble Moderne (NEM), a chamber group that has won critical acclaim in the United States, Europe and



I Musici de Montréal, with conductor Yuli Turovsky

photo: courtesy I Musici de Montréal

Asia. In October 2002, D_{FAIT} assistance enabled NEM to perform at Mexico's 30th annual Cervantino Festival.

NEM was one of many groups representing Canada at the festival. Among the others: Toronto's Gryphon Trio, a leading classical music ensemble; the Kanenhi:io Singers, a group of four First Nations women from Ontario; the Six Nations Women Singers; Slainte Mhath (Gaelic for "to your health"), a young and talented band from Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, which brings the Celtic tradition into the 21st century; and again from Nova Scotia, the dynamic Acadian group Grand Dérangement, which had the audience clapping and dancing. 🍁