

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the percussion ensemble, NEXUS, will be in Japan from June 22 to July 11. The tour is part of External's program of cultural relations with foreign countries and will constitute a major event in Canada/Japan exchanges for this season.

NEXUS has been invited to open the "Music Today" series in Tokyo, a festival of contemporary music organized by the popular Japanese composer and concert presenter, Toru Takemitsu. Their performances in Tokyo will include a ragtime concert, a program of improvised music in a marathon session with Japanese musicians; and a concert of new music to include works by Canadian composers, R. Murray Schafer and John Wyre. The ragtime performance will include two Canadian pieces by John Arpin: The Maple Leaf Rag and a new work commissioned for the tour by the Canada Council.

Following the performances in Tokyo, NEXUS will appear in Osaka, Kyoto and Sapporo. They will also be making a recording for the Japanese National Network (NHK TV) and a recording with Deutsche Grammophon in Japan.

The six musicians: Robin Engelman, Robert Becker, Russel Hartenberger, Michael Graden, William Cahn and John Wyre, represent a collective background that encompasses symphonic and contemporary music, and affiliations with the University of Toronto Faculty of Music, York University Faculty of Music and the Toronto Symphony. NEXUS has made numerous radio and television recordings for the CBC. With flutist Robert Aitken, they produced the sound track for the Oscar-winning film, "The Man Who Skied Down Everest" by Crawley Films, Canada and have recently released an album in collaboration with flutist Paul Horn. Most recently, NEXUS performed with poet Earle Birney in the "Canadian Sound" series in Toronto.

Information:

Cultural Affairs Division
Department of External Affairs
Ottawa (613)-992-9307

Jean Donelson
NYO Associated Artists
Toronto (416)-362-4554