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TORONTO SYMPHONY ON TOUR IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND IN JAPAN

The Department of External Affairs announced today details of the Toronto Symphony tour to the People's Republic of China and to Japan. The 98-member orchestra with Music Director Andrew Davis and two soloists, contralto Maureen Forrester and pianist Louis Lortie, leave Canada on January 21st to start a three-week tour which will include three concerts in Peking on January 30th, 31st and February 1st, two appearances in Shanghai on February 5th and 6th and two concerts in Canton on February 7th and 8th. Before their arrival in the P.R.C., the Toronto Symphony will give concerts in Tokyo on January 28th and 29th.

The tour coincides with the recently announced visit to Japan and China by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, who will attend concerts in both countries.

The Toronto Symphony performances in China constitute the reciprocal part of a Canada-China cultural exchange which brought the Shanghai Ballet to appreciative audiences in Canada last May. The T.S.O. will be the first major Canadian professional orchestra to visit the People's Republic, although the way was opened last March for exchanges in the field of music, by a highly successful tour of China by the Canadian Brass, and in 1975 by "The Men of the Deeps" choir from Cape Breton.

The programme of works for the concerts includes pieces by Beethoven, Berlioz, Mahler and Tchaikowsky, and by Canadian composers François Morel and Sir Ernest MacMillan. Miss Forrester and Mr. Lortie will alternate as guest soloists, and the orchestra will be joined in Shanghai by Chinese soprano Chu Feng Po who appeared in Canada with the Shanghai Ballet company last spring.

The concerts in China will be presented in major cultural centres. In Tokyo, one concert will be played at the Bunka Kaikan hall, and the other at the prestigious hall of the Japanese national television network (NHK) where it will be recorded for broadcast.

Accompanying the Toronto Symphony on the tour will be a CBC film crew under producer Norman Campbell, who will prepare a documentary to be seen in Canada in the spring.

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