



NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
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The National Arts Centre Orchestra of Canada

Pinchas Zukerman, Music Director
Mario Bernardi, C.C., Conductor Laureate
Jean-Philippe Tremblay, Apprentice Conductor

Consistent praise has followed this vibrant, classical-sized orchestra throughout its history of touring both nationally and internationally, recording, and commissioning Canadian works. The National Arts Centre Orchestra of Canada, now under the direction of renowned conductor/violinist/violist Pinchas Zukerman, continues to draw accolades both abroad and at its home in Ottawa where it gives over 100 performances a year.

The NAC Orchestra was founded in 1969 as the resident orchestra of the newly opened National Arts Centre, with Jean-Marie Beaudet as Music Director and Mario Bernardi as founding conductor and (beginning in 1971) Music Director until 1982. He was succeeded by Franco Mannino (1982 to 1987), Gabriel Chmura (1987 to 1990), and Trevor Pinnock (1991-1997). In April 1998, Pinchas Zukerman was named Music Director of the NAC Orchestra.

In addition to a full series of subscription concerts at the National Arts Centre each season, tours are undertaken to various regions throughout Canada, the United States, Europe and Asia. In 1999 the Orchestra with Pinchas Zukerman completed an eleven-city coast-to-coast Canada Tour, which included over 40 different educational activities in addition to concerts in each community. A year later, the Orchestra toured the Middle East and Europe performing 15 concerts in seven countries under Pinchas Zukerman. Continuing the commitment to education that characterised the Canada Tour, 12,500 Teacher Resource Kits entitled *Introducing Beethoven* were distributed to elementary schools across Canada to coincide with Tour 2000, which also featured a fully interactive website.

Other Orchestra education activities include the NAC Young Artists Programme, NAC Conductors Programme, NAC Young Composers Programme, Musicians in the Schools, student matinees and open rehearsals, and master classes. Since the arrival of Pinchas Zukerman, the Orchestra is also exploring education through long-distance Broadband videoconferencing, and increased use of the Internet.

The NAC Orchestra has 40 recordings to its name, five with Pinchas Zukerman: Haydn, Vivaldi, Beethoven, Mozart (flute quartets) and Schubert. The commissioning of original Canadian works has always been an important part of the National Arts Centre's mandate with over 50 works commissioned to date. Some of these are featured in other recent recordings which include four CDs of the music of Canadian composers: Schafer, Somers, Bouchard and Louie.