

COMING HERE ON MAY 26 FOR CONCERT

# Symphony Orchestra Is New Project for Island

Entirely new musical project for Salt Spring Island is represented by the coming of Victoria Symphony Orchestra to Ganges this month.

The capital city's 70-piece orchestra will present a concert in the auditorium of the Gulf Islands Secondary School at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 26.

Very impressive musical treat is coming with the sponsorship of Salt Spring Lions Club.

Directing the orchestra is Laszlo Gati, Hungarian-born musician who has spent many years with Montreal orchestras.

Mr. Gati was the founder and music director of the Montreal Chamber Orchestra and conductor with CBC in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

He was born in Hungary in 1925 and began studying the violin at the age of five. He studied music at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. He undertook violin composition and conducting. For seven years he was a member of the Hungarian State Philharmonic Orchestra as a violinist.

In 1950 he became conductor of the choir and orchestra at the university of Economics in Budapest. He was also invited to conduct the State Philharmonic Orchestra for the first time. Three years later he was appointed professor of violin at the Budapest Conservatory of Music and a year later he became head of the symphonic and chamber music department of the Hungarian radio. He also established the musical program exchange

department there.

In November 1956 Mr. Gati left Hungary and established himself in Montreal the following year. Montreal was by no means the end of his travels. In 1958 he spent two months in Mexico conducting orchestras.

The first concert of his own Montreal Chamber Orchestra was so successful in 1959 that Yehudi Menuhin offered him an invitation to conduct at his festival in Bath, England and in Switzerland. Later that year he became conductor of the Montreal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Since his establishment in eastern Canada, Mr. Gati has

gained international note, year after year.

In the past years, Mr. Gati has adopted Canada as his homeland. He is married and has two daughters.

The director of Victoria Symphony Orchestra will bring a wealth of musical experience when he comes to Salt Spring Island.

Concertmaster of the orchestra is also a comparative newcomer to the west. Jean Angers was born in Quebec City.

His musical training was received at the Conservatory of Music of the Province of Quebec and at the age of twenty he grad-

uated from the Conservatory attaining the first prize in solo violin and chamber music. During his studies at the Conservatory he organized a Chamber Ensemble doing recitals in and out of Quebec.

Under the Quebec Government he won a Provincial Government Scholarship which took him to New York where he studies with Valentine Blumberg for three years. Upon his return to Quebec he rejoined the Quebec Symphony Orchestra and also the Quebec CBC String Orchestra which he had previously joined at the age of 17. He is well known in Quebec Province as an outstanding violin soloist; he is also a coach for the Laval University Chamber Music Class.

Aside from all this he was Supervisor of Music Appreciation for the School Board of Giffard, P.Q. and he also had private pupils and a group class of violin students at the school.

Monsieur Angers is married with no family. His wife, Mirielle, is a pianist, a graduate in Music from Laval University. She also, obtained a three year schol-

CENTENNIAL MEMO: - In 1897 Amor de Cosmos gave support in the House of Commons to a British Columbia petition, signed by 1,500 residents, asking that Chinese laborers be prohibited from working on the railways.

arship from the Government of Quebec for study in New York.

Mr. Angers will also be heard as a soloist when the orchestra comes to Ganges.

Tickets are on sale in three locations here, Island Garage, Salt Spring Lands and Driftwood. They are also available from any Lions member.

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### HOSPITAL W.A.

(From Page One)

retired nurses and they volunteered their services.

In 1954 a new Lady Minto Hospital was built high on a hill overlooking lovely Ganges Harbour. In the spacious Board Room the Women's Auxiliary met and continued their labours; not, perhaps in the same dramatic, direct methods as before but steady, diligent work nonetheless, sewing, mending linen and raising money.

At this time they initiated the annual Hospital Bargain Sale which has become an island institution enabling the women, to raise, in one day, as they did this last year, the incredible sum of over \$1500. In this delightfully solvent condition they have been able to buy, not only special hospital equipment but such extras as a large second deep freezer for the kitchen and a new power-mower. The auxiliary has also completely furnished the new sun-room.

Through the years the Lady Minto Hospital has been an integral part of Salt Spring Island, growing and changing as the island grew

and changed; so, also, with the Women's Hospital Auxiliary, it has expanded and progressed.

There remains, in the organization today, only one charter member of the original group, but the memory of the splendid work done by those pioneers is a constant reminder and inspiration to the present-day members.

- Dorothy Atkins

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HIGHLIGHT OF WEEKEND ACTIVITIES:  
Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner,  
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