

The *Toronto Mandolin Orchestra*, for 55 years has continued the proud tradition of mandolin orchestral music, not only from the Ukrainian community, its roots, but the Jewish, Macedonian, Russian and other communities in Canada. The orchestra's unique instrumentation (the complete family of mandolins from prima to mando-bass with woodwinds, accordion and percussion) sets it apart from all other orchestras.

The orchestra's musicians represent many ethnic groups, and its repertoire is equally as diverse, encompassing folk, world, classical and contemporary music.

An exciting addition to the TMO's concert program on November 27 is guest artist *Moshe Hammer*. World-renowned violinist and teacher, Moshe Hammer, has seen the scars of war and violence and the power of music to heal them.

Born in the ruins of Budapest, Hungary after World War II, Moshe and his family traveled to the new country of Israel as refugees where the young man established himself as an award-winning musician.

Moshe studied at the University of Tel-Aviv's Rubin Academy of Music, the Julliard School in New York and with violin masters Jascha Heifetz in Los Angeles and Yehudi Menuhin in London. His broad discography reflects his multi-faceted talent.

A medal-winner at the Thibaud Competition in Paris, Moshe has performed around the world as a soloist, recitalist and chamber musician, his travels taking him across North America, to Europe, Israel and the Far-East.

Moshe was founder of The Amadeus Ensemble, performed as a member of Da Camera and taught violin at York University. Passionate about kids, he offers master classes for young violinists wherever he travels.

He also launched "The Hammer Band - From Violence to Violins" after the 'summer of the gun' in 2006 in Toronto. "When I teach kids music and violins, I get them away from violence. It's that simple."

