

1976

# Dorati's Detroit Talks

By Tom Zito

National Symphony Orchestra conductor Antal Dorati has accepted the directorship of the Detroit Symphony, according to high officials of the Detroit orchestra.

"There are just some minor details to be worked out," one official said yesterday.

Reached for comment as he was preparing for last night's season opener with the National Symphony, Dorati said, "There is nothing to confirm at this point." Dorati acknowledged that he would be meeting with Detroit Symphony executive director Marshall Turkin in his Watergate Hotel suite today, "but we are not talking about this job," Dorati said. "We have other matters to discuss."

Dorati, 70, has been music director of the National Symphony since 1970. His contract expires in May, 1977, and he has agreed to assume the emeritus position of principal guest conductor through 1980, giving six weeks of concerts each season. He is also music director of London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

According to a Detroit Symphony official, Dorati will become music director there in October, 1977, after the orchestra's contract with its current conductor, Aldo Ceccato, has expired. The contract would be for three years.

"We are working out details on a recording contract and a European tour," the official said.

Ironically, Dorati's acrimonious relationship with the National Symphony's board of directors was caused partly by the board's decision to can-

cel his planned tour of Europe with the orchestra last summer. Dorati was also miffed by the board's announcement that he would be replaced next season by Russian cellist Mstislav Rostropovich—an announcement made last year without Dorati's consultation while he was at his home in Switzerland.

Dorati has said previously that any future job he might assume would not affect his work with the National Symphony as principal guest conductor. Dorati is almost universally considered to have substantially upgraded the orchestra here, enabling the National Symphony to record with the prestigious London label.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 1976

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