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Summer Home Slated For Symphony in '67

The National Symphony Orchestra plans to set up a summer home in 1967 in the new Columbia community, a 14,000-acre model city under development in Howard County, Md., it was announced yesterday.

Osby L. Weir, symphony association president, said the symphony this week had accepted an offer from the Columbia developers to build a concert pavilion there.

Weir said this should make it possible to develop a major summer symphony season for the densely populated Washington-Baltimore area.

The offer was made by James W. Rouse, president of Community Research and Development, Inc., the firm that is building Columbia. It was accepted by the symphony association's board of directors on Monday and ratified by the Community Research and Development board yesterday.

The concert facility, to be

named the Columbia Pavilion of Music, is planned as a specially constructed covered amphitheater on a 10-acre wooded site.

The site is within the center of Columbia's 40-acre central park. The park will adjoin a unique lakeside entertainment and recreation park patterned after the Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen.

James M. Leefe, a San Francisco architect who specializes in constructing large tents, designed the pavilion, which will have a seating capacity of 3,000, with additional accommodations for 3,000 outside the theater. The covering will be specially treated canvas with some acoustical properties.

A stage with an acoustical shell will be installed in the pavilion. Christopher Jaffe, who designed the shell used this past summer in the New York City parks by the New York Philharmonic, is the consultant on stage design.

Mr. Robert Rogers, symphony manager, said: "This is one of the greatest cultural developments for people living in this area."

"It will also be an important opportunity for the resident orchestra of the Nation's Capital and for the artists who perform in it. It brings within reality a long-cherished dream."

Rouse commented: "We are delighted that the National Symphony has decided to make its summer home in Columbia. It is indeed fitting and in keeping with the spirit of the new town that this distinguished orchestra has selected it for an expanded program. . . ."

The land on which the pavilion is to be built is being provided by Community Research and Development. Construction will be financed by that firm, the symphony association said, so there will be no immediate capital outlay on the part of the orchestra association.

The association noted that its agreement with Community Research and Development is dependent on two conditions: That the orchestra receives a substantial grant from a foundation, which would enable the association to extend the playing season; and that a satisfactory agreement will be reached between the association and the musicians' union.