

COUNTY

**Northumberland
Orchestra Society:**

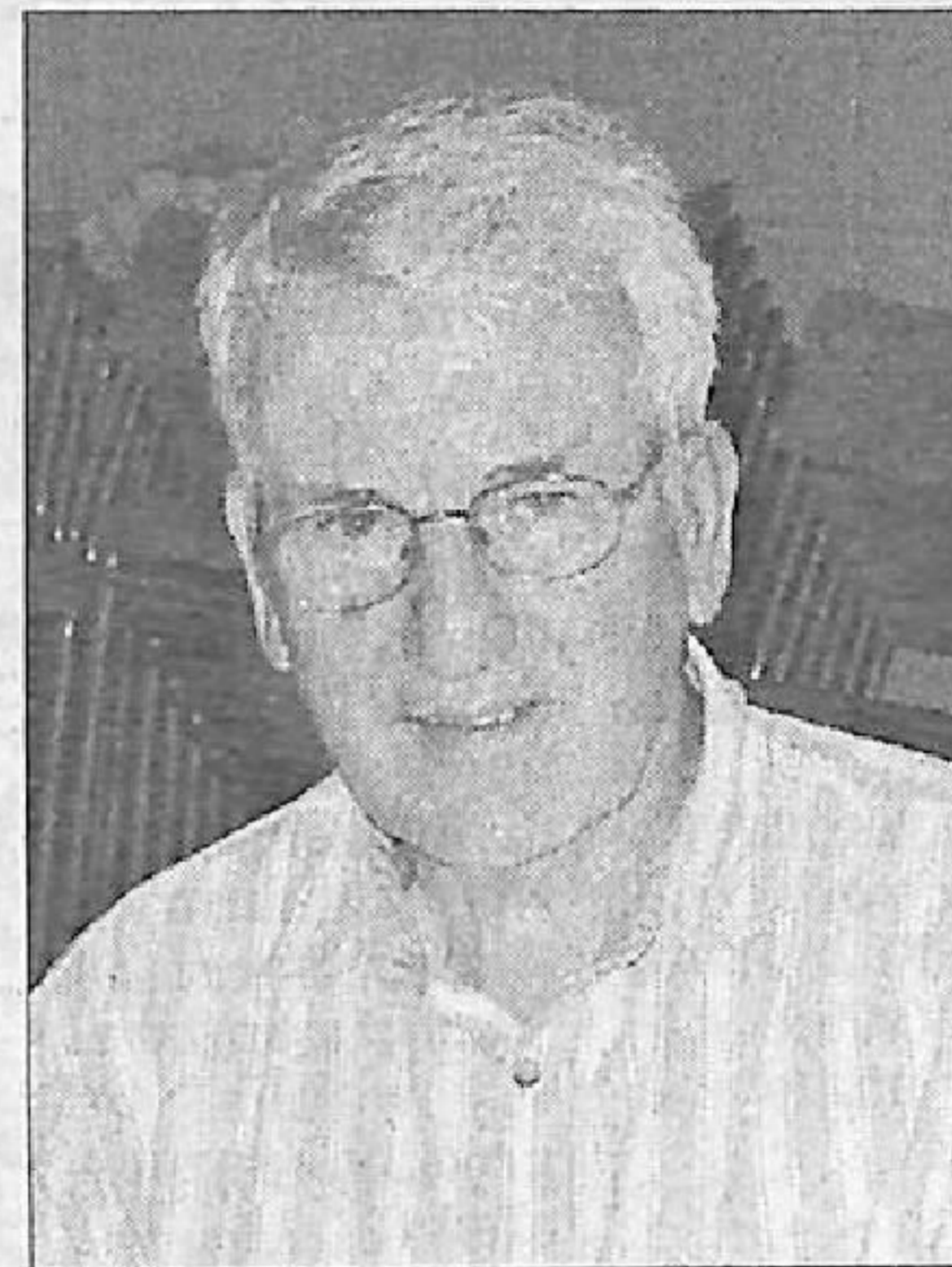
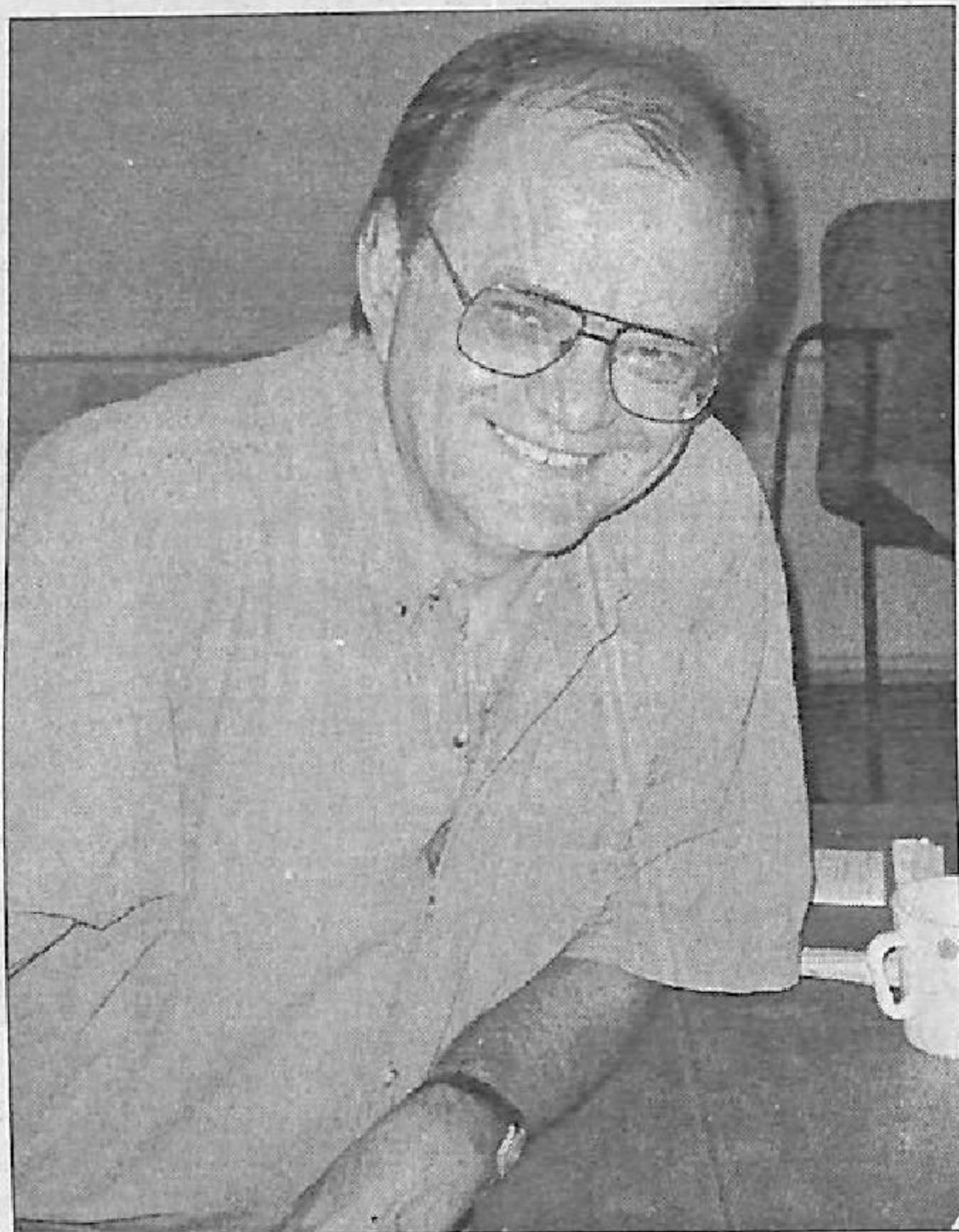
Making a “joyful noise”

By MANDY MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

There are those glorious moments when an event exceeds the sum of the parts. Members of the Northumberland Orchestra Society (NOS) thrive on those moments, when the concert performance is a step beyond the musicians and choir members, the music transcending the individual scores.

For 22 years now, orchestra society members have been putting the polish on their skills. For an annual \$50 membership, they are directed, encouraged, instructed and challenged under the professional direction of Matthew Jaskiewicz. For many of the enthusiasts dispersed throughout small communities in the county, the opportunity of world-class training is dream come true. Happily, audience of the annual NOS concert series share the music.

“A love of classical music brings us all together,” Thomas Young explains. As a younger man, Mr. Young trained just short of a professional career in music when he opted for a “something else more academic.” He played five years with the Regina Symphony and one year with the Saskatoon Symphony. He relocated to Toronto where he met Matthew Jaskiewicz and was invited to be manager of the NOS - provided he also play the viola in the orchestra. Last year, having recently relocated in the area and with his work requiring more time, he “handed the reins over”



Above Left: Northumberland Orchestra Society Music Director Matthew Jaskiewicz

Above centre: Carol Henley is a charter member of the choir. “I’m always up for choir,” she says.

Above right: Pieter Wyminga of Colborne enjoys the challenge of stretching his musical knowledge and vocal abilities in the choir.

Right: Originally hired as Northumberland Orchestra Society Manager, Thomas Young now plays in the first violin section of the orchestra.

Left: Jane Weeks is NOS manager.

singer. “When I came to Canada, I had a tape of “The Messiah” I played over and over again. In the end, I wanted to sing it so badly, I applied for the choir. You know, since I joined, we have sing Mozart’s Requiem and Puccini,” he says incredulously. “It has been a great experience, especially with Matthew. He’s a wonderful teacher.”

Matthew Jaskiewicz was a Conductor of the Warsaw Chamber Opera and founded a chamber choir, Ars Antiqua. Upon his arrival in Canada in 1984, he founded the Polish Canadian Society of Music in Toronto. He is currently Music Director of the Toronto Sinfonietta and Ryerson University’s Oakham House Choir, as well as the NOS.

He continues to be lauded for his contributions to music. He was recently awarded the prestigious L’Ordre du Merite Culturel by Poland. Last year, he