



JIM GORDON — puckish package of enthusiasm.

## Jim Gordon is not your everyday song writing musical prodigy kid

by Jennifer Barr  
Jim Gordon is not your everyday song-writing musical prodigy kid. Most 18-year-olds heading for the entertainment world have a guitar, sound box, gimmick and lots of ego.

Not Jim. Far from the stereotype, he's a puckish package of vibrant enthusiasm, an infectious grin his only gimmick, a variety of classical instruments the only sounding board for an energetic voice.

Eldest son of Kathy and Don Gordon, Jim lives with his family on hwy. 7 just west of Rockwood. A recent graduate of Guelph's Centennial High, Jim is taking a year off to experiment with his talent and to find out just where he is heading. He hopes to enter the Royal Conservatory of Music next fall and is currently honing up on music theory and voice study.

For experience, he is also singing with the University of Guelph Singers and the University Madrigal Singers. Hearing him sing some of his own songs like "Great War Veteran", "Furrows" or "Happy Songs", one wonders just how much more experience he needs. Will higher level learning spoil his acute insight and poignant lyrics?

Jim was born musical according to his mother and was always tinkering with instruments.

"We're lucky Jim has never really liked noise, he likes music," she chuckles. Centennial High School was responsible for introducing Jim to the trumpet and of taking him to the Kiwanis Music Festival. Out of this grew the Rockwood Philharmonic, Jim and three friends playing for anyone who would listen. Their wages went into a kitty and whenever \$150 was raised the boys went on a holiday.

One of the tragic moments of these jaunts was the death of their ancient Vauxhall in Concord, North Carolina.

For the past two summers, Jim has co-ordinated the T.H.E.M. group (Theatre Happening in Eden Mills). This organization is devoted to bringing theatre and acting experience to young people.

A playlet was produced each week giving Jim much scope for writing musical scores as well as directing and acting. His antics at anything from a bearded dwarf to a reluctant toaster delighted audiences from Guelph to Rockwood.

Now concentrating on learning the technique of writing the many songs vibrating in his head, Jim

spends much of his time surrounded by musical instruments.

Apart from learning to play the trumpet at school, he has had little formal training. He taught himself to play the piano, recorder and the banjo, while experimenting successfully with antique instruments such as his (circa 1894) mandolin guitar.

School bell tower But Jim's energies have not been totally immersed in music. He and younger brother Ian have spent the past five years helping their father Don build a unique house.

It is set in a clearing of surrounding trees and rocks, overlooking a small lake. The family started building the house around a central three-fireplace chimney constructed from the corner stones of the old Rockwood school. They lived in a school bus until it was ready for occupancy.

Some of the school railings formed a balcony while an exquisite stained glass window from Hespeler, placed together by Don, graces the stairway. Tastefully decorated with antique furniture, each piece with its own story, the house is like living history.

Even the gazebo in the

garden is actually the bell tower from Rockwood's original school.

Now the house is almost finished, Jim is building a log cabin in the woods. Hand-hewn logs and trees have been used to erect a small cottage, with variable measurements and studding formed around existing window frames.

Timeless quality The Gordons enjoy living in Rockwood and Jim has some strong feelings about the community he loves. Their property has a timeless quality that suits Jim. It seems far from civilization and yet is within walking distance of downtown Rockwood and only ten minutes from Guelph.

"It's close to everything I need. If I should need it," he says.

But how long before he has to leave an idyllic retreat in search of recognition? Jim admits sheepishly that he'd like to break into show business and will perform "if someone wants me to" but feels he should educate himself more.

"There is so much more I need to know."



DAVID MAINSE

## TV evangelist to appear here

Rev. David Mainse, host of Canada's only national gospel telecast, Crossroads will be appearing in person at Evangel Pentecostal Tabernacle, 33 Churchill Jd., N. Acton, Nov. 21 through 25 at 8 p.m. Mr. Mainse will be guest speaker on this occasion.

There will be special music at this Crusade sponsored by Evangel Pentecostal Tabernacle. This Crossroads TV Rally will provide a wonderful opportunity for everyone to meet this telecaster.

## 40 bus to Queen's Park

Forty members of the Acton and area Progressive Conservative Association chartered a bus recently, for a trip to Queen's Park. The trip was organized to let them see how the Legislative Assembly is set up and works, since most hadn't visited the Parliament Buildings before. Also, many wanted to meet MP for Halton West, George Kerr.

After visiting with Mr. Kerr in his office, the group toured the building and showed great interest in the structure and history. Many comments were made about the wood

and plaster carvings, and the great expanses of marble.

Following lunch in the McDonald Building, the group attended the Legislative Assembly, listening attentively to the Question Period, where the Opposition questioned the Conservatives closely about various government decisions.

While the group seemed a little quiet at first, enthusiasm grew during the day, and by late afternoon, individuals were carrying on lively discussions with Mr. Kerr in his office, before he

saw them off on the bus.

It was commented that it was nice that all three party leaders, Bill Davis, Stephen Lewis, and Bob Nixon were there.

There had been much activity on the floor as many MPs congratulated Bob Nixon on his confirmation as leader of the Liberal Party.

## Can be proud

Acton O.P.P. report a very good evening on Wednesday, October 31.

Cpl. Bob Arbour says Acton and surrounding area parents can be really proud of their teenagers generally speaking.

Not one complaint was received or phoned into the local O.P.P. regarding wilful damage or rowdiness.

Several groups of teenagers roamed the streets throwing eggs at each other. However when the time got late and officers asked them to move on, all cheerfully went on their way covered in eggs and soaked to the skin from the rain which continued throughout the night.

Two charges Cpl. Arbour says although all the officers were out on cruiser patrol and on foot, only two charges were laid, one for "careless driving" as the result of a car going out of control on Mill Street, the other was a charge of "failing to yield" for a pedestrian at the crosswalk at Queen Street and Acton Blvd., after a pedestrian was nearly struck by a car.

There were no accidents and the young children appeared to be having a great time making the rounds from house to house.

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## Chamber campaign pay for lights

Acton Chamber of Commerce is conducting a campaign to strengthen membership before the town is absorbed into the new town of Halton Hills.

In a letter to members and prospective members, President Ed Bendicks points out, "With the new regional government taking office in

January, 1974, it is probably more important than before that we have a strong voice in the support of our community and its development."

Membership of the Chamber increased substantially in 1973 but Mr. Bendicks points out new ideas and people are needed to develop community im-

provements.

The Chamber is also conducting a financial campaign to help pay for the Christmas lighting which graced the streets of Acton last year and is considering a council request to participate in the Christmas bus service. A dance is being held at the music centre on November 17 to help defray expenses for Christmas lighting. Tickets

are available at some stores Acton.

Among projects of the Chamber this year have been a Meet the Candidates night, meetings regarding dumping of Metro Toronto garbage in the area, the annual Citizen of the Year dinner and dance as well as several dinner meetings. The executive of the Chamber meets

## Seek meeting

Esquousing council Monday reiterated their desire to have a joint meeting with Nassawogweya council and Dufferin quarries.

Dufferin Materials has made a request to close the Town Line through their property and have the road allowance conveyed to them.

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### Toyota Community Calendar

What's doing in North Halton area!

**PAPER DRIVE**  
Save your papers! The Acton High School students will be picking them up on Saturday, November 10. All proceeds will go towards the 1973 Commencement.

**DANCE**  
Everyone loves to dance! So be sure to be at the Acton Legion Hall on Saturday, November 10, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dance to the music of the Shyness. Tickets available at the Acton Legion, Taxi Stand and Blue Springs Flower Shop.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE**  
On Sunday, Nov. 11, followed by services at the Cenotaph and Trinity United Church.

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DONALD SUTHERLAND JANE FONDA PETER BOYLE

Thurs. 15 Fri. 16  
**"THE LAST AMERICAN HERO"**  
Starring Jeff Bridges and Valerie Perrine  
a thrilling adventure story with car racing.

Sat. Nov. 17  
The Theatre will be operated by The Milton Police and Optimist Club for Youth Appreciation Day. Matinee: 1:30 and 4 p.m.  
**"THE THREE STOOGES MEET HERCULES"**  
Evening 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.  
**"THE LAST AMERICAN HERO"**  
FREE ADMITTANCE  
afternoon and evening performances.

VISITORS TO the Parliament Building particularly admired the beautiful marble. Mrs. Joyce Sprowl and Mrs. Viola Sprowl pause to look around them. (Photo by W. Thomson)

## BINGO

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## REMEMBRANCE DAY

### Sunday, November 11th

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

- 10:15 a.m.—Formation of Parade for Legion and all other organizations—Acton Legion
- 10:45 a.m.—Service at Cenotaph
- 11:15—a.m.—Church Service in Trinity United Church
- Haltonville Service Sunday, Nov. 11th at 3 p.m.
- Rockwood Service, Nov. 11th, 11 a.m. at Cenotaph
- 11:15 a.m.—Rockwood Centennial Public School Auditorium

**REMEMBER TO WEAR A POPPY ON POPPY DAY**  
**FRIDAY and SATURDAY NOV. 10th & 11th**

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