

Band, choir present a joint gift—the annual concert



A 90-VOICE choir! Band members join the Georgetown Choral Society singers in delightfully presented Christmas carols. The concert was Sunday evening—a night of ice, snow and fog. Above, the groups sing "In the Bleak Midwinter" as if they really mean it!

Use correct title to sign greeting

Whether or not you are among the many people who send Christmas cards with your name imprinted, there is a certain formality to the manner in which names and titles appear.

Here is a brief refresher course on how to sign your greeting cards, compiled by the Canadian Gift Packaging and Greeting Card Association.

When you sign with titles such as "Mr. and Mrs.," your husband's name always comes first as in "Mr. and Mrs. Frank Johnson" or "Dr. and Mrs. Frank Johnson". Without titles, either name may come first. Both "Ruth and John Smith" or "John and Ruth Smith" are correct. Your personal preference determines your choice.

When children are included, the father's and mother's names come first. For example, "The Smiths, John, Ruth, Bobbie and Jane." Or "Frank Case and Family."

Widows or married women may use either a title or a first name: "Mrs. Roger Kent" or "Elaine Kent" are both correct. On the other hand, divorced women may use a title and a first name—such as "Mrs. Jean Page." If a woman wishes to declare her independence, regardless of marital status, she may simply append "Ms. before her name, in which instance it would appear as "Ms. Nancy Blake" or she can identify herself just as "Nancy Blake."

For all cards, it is correct to send one card to a husband and wife and separate cards to other family members. Or, use the familiar family-to-family style cards. In sending cards to business acquaintances, address them to their offices unless you know other members of their family, in which case cards can be sent to their homes.

It is always appropriate to send a Christmas card to your clergyman. For all religious denominations, the proper address is "The Rev. John A. Watson", or, if he has a degree of D.D. or similar, "The Rev. Dr. John A. Watson". If your minister is married it's "The Rev. and Mrs. John A. Watson".

How about plurals? There is a tendency to add an apostrophe "s" to last names. For instance, The Kelly's. That is incorrect.

Antique toy exhibit creates nostalgia

An exhibition of approximately 20 antique toys opened at the Canadiana Galleries of the Sigmund Samuel Building, Royal Ontario Museum, on Dec. 5.

The exhibition reflects the simpler pleasures of Christmas past in Canada and includes home-made sleighs and rocking chairs from Quebec; a wicker doll carriage; a hand-carved Noah's Ark filled with crudely-shaped wooden animals—a very popular item before the turn of the century; magic lanterns with paraffin lamps and glass slides of fairy tales; a home-made doll's house; miniature furniture for some little girl's nursery-table, bed, chest of drawers, and of course a toy cradle; and, to

encourage thrift in the young, a cast-iron bank for pennies.

One hundred years ago in Ontario, gifts for children were almost always made by hand by the settlers who carved, whittled and painted in their own workshops. They were resourceful and economical, using everyday objects, but with great charm.

Toys were carefully made to suit each sex. Little girls were given toys that emphasized the domestic skills such as rolling pins, tea sets, miniature cooking pots, baby-doll bedding and cradles, layettes, doll carriages and, of course, dolls.

Little boys were given useful toys that taught them farm work, repairing, constructing and gardening.

Boys also received serious toys like wheelbarrows, puzzle blocks, plus miniature tools, sleighs, toy tug boats, wooden animals.

The antique toy collection of the Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Galleries creates a nostalgia for an earlier and gentler time and reminds us of our history. The toys from Quebec have a particular and special style exemplified by a ventriloquist doll of hand-carved and painted pine.

The exhibition of antique toys will close Feb. 26, 1978, at the Canadiana Galleries of the Royal Ontario Museum, 14 Queen's Park Cresc. W., Toronto.

Hours are Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Bandmaster George Elliott conducted the band and choir together in O How Amiable by Ralph Vaughan Williams. He told of trying to locate the original band score written in 1935, and in the course of the search Mrs. Vaughan Wil-

Acton Citizens' Band's Christmas gift—their December concert—was a delightful event on Sunday night. Playing with professional flourish, the musicians were joined for the first time by the Georgetown Choral Society as guest artists.

Highlights of the evening were the fine selections that the choir and band performed together, and applause filled the McKenzie-Smith middle school gym.

The happy evening culminated in the rousing Hallelujah Chorus from The Messiah by Handel. Following worldwide tradition the audience rose to hear the splendid singing and playing.

Georgetown Choral Society director Dale Wood directed both the band and singers for this part of the program. The effect was excellent, although in fact there was a slight time lag for the ears of the bandspeople, as the singers' voices projected to the back wall and back again onto the stage before they were heard.

The audience noticed no such problem and everyone was filled with praise for the combined efforts of the two excellent groups.

Bandmaster George Elliott said the two groups hope to work together again. They had only had one rehearsal together, on Monday of last week, but had achieved fine balance.

The day of the sole rehearsal was snowy and blowy and then the day of the concert treacherously icy.

Beset by weather problems as well as illness, numbers were down all round. About 40 choristers were here for the concert with some missing. The band's ranks were also slightly depleted although there were about 50 players packed onto the stage.

The audience numbered under 150. "The place should have been packed to overflowing for a program like this," complained one listener.

Williams found it. From her it was forwarded from England to the Acton band, who performed the resurrected version here for centennial year's interdenominational church service in the arena. This impressive selection ends with the stirring strains of O God Our Help in Ages Past.

Dave Sale mounted the high podium to conduct both groups together in the delightful Three Noels by Clare Grandman.

The Choral Society's section of the program included three choruses from the Messiah by Handel. These were touchingly sung to a completely silent and still audience.

They also sang Ding Dong Merrily on High, the Carol of the Bells with fine intermingling of voices, and the unusual The Three Kings, a modern composition by Healey Willan.

All the band trooped down from the stage to join the choir, making a 90-voice group for leader Dale Wood.

They sang Slumber My Dove, Westminster Carol, O Come All Ye Faithful and finally unaccompanied and particularly sweetly, In the Bleak Midwinter.

The audience joined in a happy Christmas singalong, led by Dr. Elliott and the band. Everyone had applause for everyone else at the end of that one.

The band started off the evening with the Hospitality March and later played March Baroque.

In the seasonal theme, they played O Holy Night, Noel Suite, Elizabethan Carol and the popular Let It Snow Let It Snow.

A Wilderness Overture was the selection they played in competition at the C.N.E. this year, placing a fraction of a point behind the third place winner. Its changes of mood appealed to the listener in a different way.

Joyce Hayward of Milton was accompanist for the choir; she had been iced in but travelled many miles to be here.

Several Actonians were pleased to chat with conductor Dale Wood after the concert; he is a former piano teacher here. Some of his pupils are now in the band.

NOTICE

HOLIDAY REFUSE PICK UPS — FOR ACTON

Refuse normally picked up Monday, December 26, 1977 will be picked up Tuesday, December 27, 1977. Further, refuse normally picked up Tuesday, December 27, 1977 will be picked up Wednesday, December 28, 1977. Refuse normally picked up Monday, January 2, 1978, will be picked up Tuesday, January 3, 1978. Refuse normally picked up Tuesday, January 3, 1978 will be picked up Wednesday, January 4, 1978.

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