



Lyn Welton and John Smedley entertained small but appreciative audiences Friday and Saturday at Knox Presbyterian Church Hall, with an evening of classical songs. The two performed duets and solos from "The Magic Flute", "The Marriage of Figaro" and "The Merry Widow" among others.

(Herald photo)

Rare delight for opera fans

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald Staff Writer
Halton Hills residents had the rare opportunity to hear some live opera in Georgetown this past weekend, but unfortunately, not many people took advantage of that opportunity.

Nornie Studio for the Performing Arts presented an evening of musical classics Friday and Saturday in the Knox Church Hall. Singers John Smedley and Lyn Welton performed songs composed by Mozart, Verdi, Offenbach, Donizetti and Lehár.

The small audiences were undoubtedly a disappointment to the organizers of the event, but they did create an atmosphere of intimacy in the hall. Saturday's audience seemed to be caught up in the performance, responding to the emotions of the characters being portrayed in song, rather than simply listening to the two singers.

In opera, the singers portray characters, and the songs they sing form the dialogue which outlines the plot. While both Mr. Smedley and Mrs. Welton have extensive training and experience as singers, it was the way they gave the audience an insight into the characters from the various operas in just one song which made the evening most enjoyable. The brief explanations of the plots of the different operas set the stage for the characters in song very well.

The program included selections from "The Magic Flute", "The Marriage of Figaro" and "Don Giovanni" by Mozart, "La Traviata" by Verdi, and "La Vie Parisienne" by Offenbach, as well as selections from "The Merry Widow", "Don Pasquale" and "La Bohème".

FACETS OF OPERA
Most of the material was in the form of duets, but both performers had occasion to demonstrate their singing talents in solos performances as well. The choice of material demonstrated the many facets of opera to the audience, from tragedy to comedy, and showed the intrigues which entangle the plot in many operas.

The program also provided Mr. Smedley and Mrs. Welton with an opportunity to show

their range. The songs varied from light sparkling exchanges to quiet, almost contemplative passages, to bursts of emotion conveyed in song, as the characters went through the action in each song.

The singers were accompanied on piano by Kae Cartwright and Patricia Burton. Although at times the accompaniment seemed to dwarf the voices, for the most part the two went together very well.

INTIMATE SETTING
The average person seems to find opera music heavy-going and too "high-brow", but the intimacy of the setting, combined with the skill of the performers, gave the audience a clearer understanding of opera and made it easier for the audience to become involved in the performance.

It is indeed unfortunate that Halton Hills residents failed to avail themselves of the opportunity to hear these two fine singers, but, as Nornie Studio founder Bev Nicholas said at the conclusion of the evening, perhaps next time, Mr. Smedley and Mrs. Welton will be appearing in the cultural centre's 201-seat theatre "with 282 tickets sold".

Viewing on Halton Cable

Wed. Oct. 8, 1980
5:30 Baka's Present
6:00 Barry Cow
6:30 Storytime with Erica
6:50 TBA
7:00 Magazine
7:30 Milton Jaycee Junior Talent
7:50 Acton Fall Fair Highlights
8:30 Sign-Off
Thurs. Oct. 9, 1980
6:00 Milton Fall Fair Highlights
6:35 Share A Dream
7:05 Everything In Sight
7:30 Milton Festival of Countries
8:25 Sign-Off
Fri. Oct. 10, 1980
6:00 OTF - "Trudge"
6:50 MHA - Fashion Show Promo

7:00 Magazine - "Maple Sugar"
7:30 Georgetown Fall Fair Sign-Off

CANADIAN ODEON THEATRES
GEORGETOWN 3

1 STARTING FRIDAY "TERROR TRAIN" A THRILLER
Weekdays 7:10, 9:15
Sat. Sun. 2:15, 4:45, 6:55, 9:15

2 ADULT "HOPSCOTCH" WALTER MATTHAU
GLENNA JACKSON
Weekdays 7:10, 9:15
Sat. Sun. 2:20, 4:45, 6:55, 9:15
Warning: some language may be offensive to some people.

3 HELD OVER 2ND WEEK GEORGE BURNS IN "OH, GOD! BOOK II"
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Sat. Sun. 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:15

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