



Folk group Maple Sugar

Music series opens tonight with Maple Sugar group

The Musical Trillight concert series being sponsored by the Halton Hills Arts Council will be launched tonight (Wednesday) at Georgetown District High School with a performance by the Canadian folk group Maple Sugar.

This is the first in a series of three concerts sponsored by the arts council. The second, in February at Acton High School, will feature the Tapestry Singers, and the third, in April at Georgetown District High School, will feature renowned contralto Maureen Forrester.

Maple Sugar is actually an interchangeable revue of musicians and dancers which appears all over Canada. For this performance, the group will be comprised of James Gordon, Jeff Bird, Randy Sutherland, Dawson Girdwood and Gilles Lasser. The group, whatever its membership, plays authentic Canadian folk

music from the country's English and French heritage. James Gordon, Jeff Bird and Randy Sutherland spend their time outside the Maple Sugar revue playing as a trio. Mr. Gordon is the lead vocalist for much of their material, and also plays banjo, guitar, tin whistle, trumpet, piano, mandolin and congas. He has studied classical voice and composition, and has appeared in folk clubs in Britain as well as in Canada.

Jeff Bird plays fiddle, mandolin, acoustic and electric bass, guitar, harmonica, tin whistle and saxophone, and sings back-up vocals. Before appearing with Mr. Gordon as half of a folk duo, he performed with a number of folk, rock and bluegrass groups.

Randy Sutherland was a solo

performer and songwriter before joining Mr. Gordon and Mr. Bird. He plays guitar, mandolin, banjo, and bass. Dawson Girdwood is an accomplished fiddler, having won numerous fiddle competitions. He hails from the Ottawa Valley, and has played for hundreds of the stepdancers in that area, as well as sitting in with the band "Mac Beattie and his Ottawa Valley Melodiers".

Gilles Lasser sings the folk songs of his native Acadia, as well as playing the piano, bass and fiddle. He was a member of the official Quebec delegation to the World Festival of Folk Music in France in 1976 when the Quebecois musicians returned with a silver medal from the competition.

Tickets for the series are \$15. Tonight's performance begins at 8 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT

Realistic setting for Eliot's 'Murder'

A casual remark made last March during a chat in the basement of Georgetown's Knox Church has led to the production of a well-known historical play to be presented in three churches in Georgetown and Brampton next month.

The minister of Knox, Peter Barrow, mentioned to the people at Nornie Studio, who use the church basement each Saturday, that he had played the First Knight in a production of T.S. Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral" at Lincoln Cathedral in England many years before. Nornie's directors decided that such a play would be an exciting piece of theatre to perform, one of interest to many people, and from there the idea grew into the forthcoming production.

The production comes to Georgetown Nov. 14 following a one-night engagement in Brampton.

"Murder in the Cathedral" is a verse play based on the life of Thomas Becket, an Archbishop of Canterbury who figured in the struggle between the Church and royal tyranny in the 12th century, during the reign of Henry II. Becket was murdered in 1170 while he was at vespers in the cathedral. He will be portrayed in the Nornie production by a well-known actor, Glen Tarlin of Brampton. Rev. Barrow will not recreate his original role but will appear as the First Priest, and a number of local actors from the Halton-Peel region will complete the cast.

Rev. Nicholas of Nornie Studio will direct the play and also take one of the roles.

First written for the Canterbury Festival in 1935, "Murder in the Cathedral" has been seen by many as the high point of Eliot's dramatic achievement. A major poet and critic of the 20th century, Eliot was

awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1948.

The play will debut in Brampton Nov. 7 and will be seen in Georgetown the following week, Nov. 14, 15 and 16. In keeping with the historical details of the murder, the play will be presented in the sanctuaries of churches in both Brampton and Georgetown.

Tickets for the local production will be going on sale at various outlets in Georgetown and Knox Church sometime this week.

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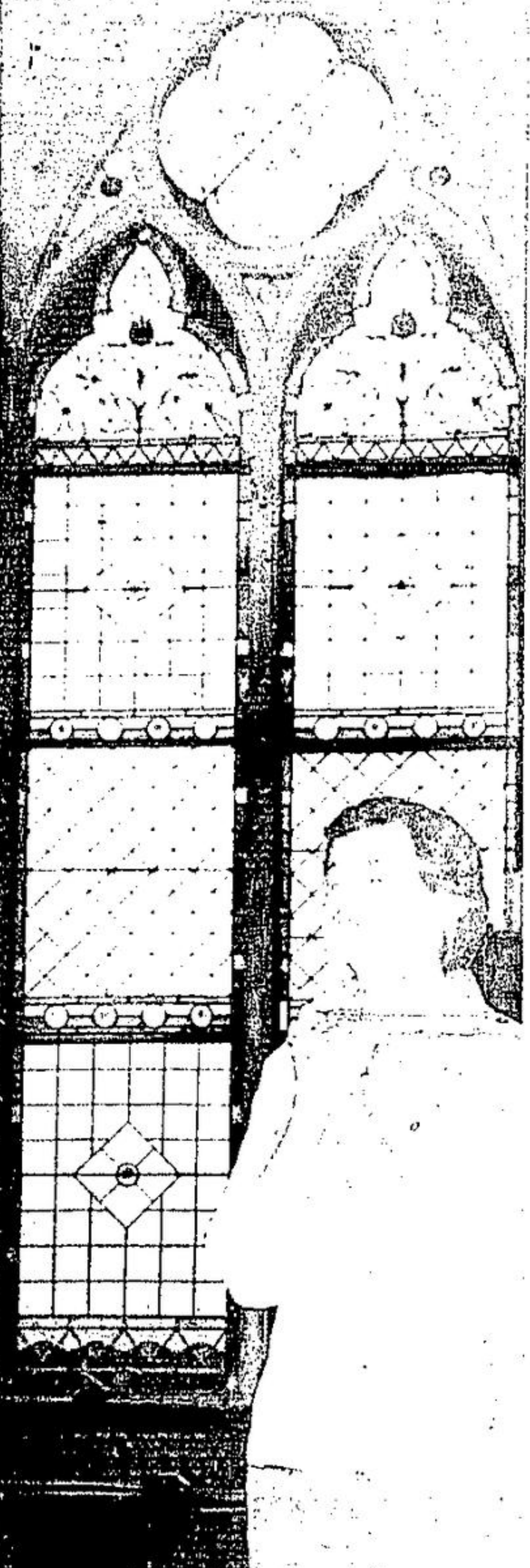
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Rehearsals have begun for the Nornie Studios production of T.S. Eliot's play "Murder in the Cathedral", which will be staged, appropriately enough, in Knox Presbyterian Church in Georgetown. Glen Tarlin, shown here, plays Thomas Becket, an Archbishop of Canterbury, who was murdered in the cathedral during a struggle between the church and the monarchy in the 12th century.

(Herald photo)

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