



Maple Sugar entertained a large audience at Georgetown District High School last Wednesday with their unique repertoire of folk songs and fiddle tunes from Canada's pioneer days. Members of the group were, from left to right, Jeff Bird, James Gordon, Gilles Losier, Randy Sutherland and Danny Girdwood.

(not shown). This concert was the first in the Musical Trilight series sponsored by the Halton Hills Arts Council. Tickets for the remaining two concerts, featuring the Tapestry Singers in February, and Maureen Forrester in April, are still available. (Herald photo by Lori Taylor)

**Music trilight review**

# Maple Sugar likes to fiddle with Canadian folk tunes

By LORI TAYLOR  
Herald Staff Writer

The temperature was chilly but the atmosphere was warm at the first concert of the Halton Hills Arts Council's Trilight series featuring Maple Sugar last Wednesday.

In spite of the cool October air outside, the air conditioning in the cafeteria of Georgetown District High School had been left on, and the audience spent most of the evening huddled in its coats.

Musically, however, Maple Sugar quickly thawed the atmosphere with the group's unique brand of Canadian folk music. James Gordon, Jeff Bird, Randy Sutherland, Dawson Girdwood and Gilles Losier provided a varied and entertaining selection of fiddle tunes and folk songs from Canada's French, English, Irish and Scottish heritages.

Maple Sugar is a revue or troupe rather than a static group. The entire company consists of about 30 performers and the composition of the group for a particular performance depends on the taste of the sponsor. The Arts Council, sponsors of this concert, seem to have correctly identified the tastes of their audience.

The concert opened with a fiddle tune entitled, appropriately enough, "Maple Sugar". From there, the program went on to include such fiddle tunes as "Paddy Ryan's Dream", and "Stacks of Barley", and folk

songs such as "Banks of Newfoundland" and "Ferryland Scaler".

With the exception of Mr. Girdwood, who is featured on the fiddle, each member of the troupe plays a variety of instruments. Between them, they cover the spectrum from conga to tin whistle, with guitar and mandolin falling somewhere in between.

The tempo of the concert varied as well from reel to waltz and back again, and personnel changes accompanied almost every song, with musicians changing instruments or stepping off-stage to feature certain members of the group in a song.

The evening was quick-paced and the talk between songs and the introductions were never allowed to lag. The introductions were particularly helpful in explaining the story in the French songs to those of the audience who aren't bilingual.

The tunes were toe-tappers for the most part, and the audience clapped along in time with several of the

songs. The members of the group were obviously enjoying themselves on stage, and this feeling spread into the audience. The rapport between artists and audience was good, and the audience response to the music and to the interplay among the musicians on stage was appreciative.

It is unfortunate that in spite of the wealth of material available from Canada's early days, most Canadians are virtually unacquainted with the country's native songs. The Maple Sugar troupe does its part to bring the music to people who have few opportunities to hear it, and does it with great flair.

Thanks to the lively entertainment on stage, the audience was able for the most part to ignore the chill in the air and the hard benches which weren't exactly designed for concert seating. Perhaps the next time Maple Sugar visits the area, the cultural centre will be ready for them, and the audience will be able to enjoy the music without the distractions of hard seats and the nip in the air.

**More to come**

Those who missed the first concert in the Musical Trilight series sponsored by the Halton Hills Arts Council will be happy to hear that there are two more concerts in the series in February and March, and tickets are still available. The Tapestry Singers will be performing at Acton High School February 4, and Maureen Forrester will be performing at Georgetown District High School April 8.



**ACTORS IN ACTION**

Upgrading the level of expertise shared by local theatre buffs, Nornic Studio's one-day workshop on stage management was a successful learning experience for a number of interested participants Saturday. Professional tutor Tom Schwelzer, seen here coaching Georgetown high school student Greg Carabon, guided registrants through a series of problem-solving exercises aimed at helping them run theatrical productions smoothly and effectively. Representatives from the high school's drama department, the Halton Hills public library and the Georgetown Little Theatre, among others, took advantage of the opportunity to learn more about utilizing professional stages and equipment in preparation for the opening of the town's new library-theatre complex.

(Herald photo)

**In next week's Herald**

Herald staffers are working on a major feature for next week's issue examining progress made thus far on Halton Hills' new library-arts complex now under construction at Church and Market Streets in Georgetown. Do some isolated concerns have any basis in fact? Are preparations proceeding according to expectations? When will the various involved groups begin their fund-raising drives and what forms will they take? What can residents expect once the centre opens next year? Find out all this and more in next week's Herald.

**Cable TV listings**

Wed. Nov. 5  
 5:30 Baba's Present  
 6:00 Barry Coe  
 6:30 Storytime with Erica  
 6:50 TBA  
 7:00 Magazine "Murder in the Cathedral"  
 7:30 Class Act  
 8:00 Chamber of Commerce - "Mold Masters"  
 8:30 Sign-Off

Thurs. Nov. 6  
 6:00 Cantante Singers  
 7:30 Max Yalden - Two Languages  
 8:00 Karate  
 8:30 Sign-Off  
 Fri. Nov. 7  
 6:00 Golf Tournament  
 7:00 Chamber of Commerce - 3  
 7:30 Crazy Boat Race  
 8:30 Sign-Off

**Saturday Night BINGO**  
 Nov. 9th  
 8-11 p.m.  
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 7:30 p.m.

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**CANADIAN ODEON THEATRES GEORGETOWN 3**

1. STARTING FRIDAY "ORDINARY PEOPLE"  
 Mary Tyler Moore - Donald Sutherland  
 Weekdays - 7:00, 9:25  
 Sat., Sun. - 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25  
 Warning - Some language may be offensive - Theatres Br. Ont.

2. STARTING FRIDAY "SONG OF THE SOUTH"  
 Weekdays - 7:05, 9:10  
 Sat., Sun. - 2:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:10

3. HELD OVER 3RD GREAT WEEK "THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK"  
 Weekdays - 7:00, 9:10  
 Sat., Sun. - 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:25

LAST 2 DAYS - C-2 "MY BODYGUARD"  
 C-3 "MIDDLE AGE CRAZY"

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