

Nornic's 'Celebration' honors arts centre

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

As if to once and for all drum it into the minds of Halton Hills residents that the area's amateur talent is among the best in the province, Nornic Studio is bringing back John Smedley and Lynn Welton for a special musical celebration in honor of the opening of the new library-cultural centre.

Fans raved endlessly about this dynamic duo when they performed at Knox Presbyterian Church in Georgetown last year. The Smedley-Welton repertoire for that evening emphasized light, easy-on-the-ear opera, and more is planned for the program this Friday beginning at 8 p.m.

"We've prepared a mixture of arias and duets, some Gilbert and Sullivan, Offenbach, Tosti—all done in English," Mr. Smedley told The Herald Friday, later mentioning Donizetti, Mozart and pieces from "La Bohème".

Veterans to the stage themselves, Mr. Smedley and Mrs. Welton will introduce an accomplished pianist to the "Celebration of Music" audience. Ella Jackson, who conducts private piano lessons in Georgetown, will be making her local debut. Rachel Smedley, Mr. Smedley's eleven-year old daughter, will also accompany the duo of piano.

Enid Williams-Nicholas, who is directing "Celebration," says Nornic was fortunate in finding a qualified pianist as Mrs. Jackson. Amateur productions, in which rehearsal time is scarce and the performance pivots on the confident professionalism of the people involved, flow that much more smoothly when the accompanist is an especially talented music reader.

"We heard about Mrs. Jackson through two sources stating how well qualified she was," Mrs. Williams-Nicholas said.

"If they're good, they are exceptionally busy," Mr. Smedley added. "Where have you been hiding all this time?"

Staging for the "Celebration" is as light as the musical program it surrounds. Mrs. Williams-Nicholas said the setting will be in a common living room or drawing room, recalling a not-so-bygone era in which talented friends and family members would retire to the piano after supper to exchange songs.

"It will give warmth to the presentation," she said. "Because, set on the stage apron, it allows intimate contact with the audience."

Nornic knows all about "intimate contact" with its audiences and has used dramatic, close-to-the-viewer settings with abundant success in several productions, including last year's immensely popular classic "Murder in the Cathedral".

Unfortunately, Georgetown residents missed the opportunity to see the play performed locally, apathetically ignoring ticket notices. But, performed in Brampton's Emmanuel (United) Church, last December, the play drew sell-out crowds each night of its run.

Now, Nornic plans to use the church setting again, this time to produce a musical play entitled "The Hollow Crown". Once again, Mr. Smedley and Mrs. Welton will handle the play's musical components along with Wally Bear. Four readers, Florence O'Connor, Glen Tarlin, John Day and the play's director, Bev Nicholas, will present the narrative, an exciting and haunting step back into history especially when performed in the cavernous confines of a church nave.

Emmanuel Church has already booked Nornic's "The Hollow Crown" for three nights, Nov. 13, 14 and 15 (contact Nornic at 877-0643 for ticket information). The studio is still looking for a Georgetown church to host the play this year.

Activities like these, Mr. Smedley said, help keep actors and singers in good performing shape. Local residents may also recall Mr. Smedley from the Old Tyme Music Hall

during Summerfest in June, singing a selection of tunes which probably tugged the heartstrings of few old soldiers in the audience.

Friday's Celebration of Music concert is absolutely free and along with GLT's

"Not Now, Darling" production earlier this month, is undoubtedly one of the finest pieces of amateur talent residents will see during the two-week opening ceremonies for the new cultural centre.



Lynn Welton and John Smedley star in Nornic Studio's "Celebration of Music" which will be presented Friday night at the library-cultural centre beginning at 8 p.m. "Celebration" will feature a wide variety of light-hearted operetta-style pieces chosen from such artists as Gilbert and Sullivan, Tosti and Mozart. Tickets for the concert are free and patrons can be guaranteed they will enjoy the talents of these amateur musicians who have amazed audiences throughout southern Ontario. Ella Jackson and Rachel Smedley will accompany the singers on piano.

(Herald photo)

HALLOWE'EN HAPPY FACES



Just a week away from Hallowe'en, there were plenty of painted faces wandering around the new library in Georgetown last Friday. The library children's facilities were enjoyably swamped with youngsters taking advantage of a holiday while

their teachers participated in a professional development day. The "clowns" are (left to right) Jennifer Kinnear, Kelly Bowman and Tracy Sabean.

(Herald photo)

Help Actario, chamber asked

Herald Special
Actario draw organizer Ted Tyler approached the Chamber of Commerce last Wednesday seeking ticket sellers for the coming year of lottery draws.

The Chamber sold 49 tickets to last year's draw and Mr. Tyler hopes members can equal that again this year. He reminded members that as well as earning a percentage of their sales to add to the Chamber coffers, members should feel good about the number of their ticket holders who won prizes last year.

have to make a final decision about continuing or giving up, Mr. Tyler said.

"If people don't want it, there's no point banging our heads on a wall," he said. "If it folds we'll have to refund ticket purchasers their money."

Actario has been holding early bird draws to stir up a little interest and Marie and Dorothy Jordan won the night at Mohawk Raceway offered last week.

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Quick - call me a cab!

Taking a taxi to a first period class may be the way to start a school day for Halton's secondary school students soon.

A pilot project to provide equal and balanced curriculum opportunities for Halton students will begin next September allowing students to attend another high school for just one period a cycle in order to enrol in a credit not offered at the student's home school.

The board of trustees voted Thursday to begin the project in Burlington with a budget of \$7,200. The project will continue until December, 1982.

"I drove between Acton and Georgetown to see how long it would take," said trustee Betty White. "It only takes 13 minutes."

She said there are technical students in Acton who don't want to leave their peer group to go to Georgetown District High School.

Such a program would encourage them to take the necessary courses for their career and still be a part of their home school, she said.

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- Sister initiated the weekend retreats for widowed, separated and divorced persons within the church, called "NEW BEGINNINGS".
- Sister Jean will speak of the church's concern for persons previously married, their struggles and adjustments and their relationship to the church and the sacraments.
WHO'S THIS SESSION FOR?
- All widowed, separated and divorced people
- All who have a family member who is widowed, separated or divorced
- Anyone interested in the present teachings of the church concerning persons who were previously married.

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