

# Audience joins Feuersteins for adventure



Drawing deeply from the musical heritage of central Europe, as well as from other national cultures, the Robert and Sarah Feuerstein have built an interesting repertoire of music which they skillfully arrange for guitar and piano or harpsichord. Their performance at the John Elliott Theatre last Wednesday was warmly received by the audience, some members of which are likely looking for their album, "Transmutations" recorded in Toronto about four years ago. The concert was sponsored by the Halton Hills Arts Council as part of its Musical Trillight Series. (Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Herald Staff Writer

Great musicians view music as raw material from which they shape beautiful performances with the tools at hand.

Such sculptors are Robert and Sarah Feuerstein. In the world of concerts, they travel light, Robert with his guitar and Sarah with her harpsichord or piano.

But as viewers of their performance last Wednesday night at the John Elliott Theatre can attest, the guitar and keyboards combination has an awesome impact, among the finest concerts brought to Halton Hills through the annual Musical Trillight series sponsored by the Halton Hills Arts Council.

The Feuersteins are Romanian natives who have (relatively recently) made Canada their home. That "dedicated-to-strings" folk music tradition of central Europe was evident in the concert and weaves a colorful, Old World thread through their exciting "Transmutations" album.

But Mr. and Mrs. Feuerstein are cosmopolitan people: they have performed and studied all over the world - in France and Israel as well as Romania - and they have

a liberal approach to music, drawing appreciatively from the numerous musical heritages with which they come in contact.

While their selections are intricate, their performance is uncomplicated. An audience is inclined not to concentrate busily on the music and various movements, but to sail hypnotized back into several musical heritages or forward into the future.

Their virtuosity with musical heritage is apparent in the concert: the Feuersteins devoted as much energy and thought to classical pieces like Mozart's "Rondo Alla Turca" and a "Concertante Duo" by J.M. Hummel as they did to the more modern pieces like Richard Kardonne's "Jazz Suite" (specially composed for the Feuersteins) and Robert's own "Transmutations".

**OLD WORLD**  
Because of their unfamiliar uniqueness, it was the more modern pieces which seemed the most interesting. In them, the Feuersteins seemed to capture the timelessness of music performed with the fewest of instruments. The combination of classical guitar with either the harpsichord or the piano is as roman-

tically "Old World" in "Jazz Suite" and "Transmutation I" as it seems with Mondonville's "Tambourine" written in the 18th century (and found on the couple's album).

The Elliott Theatre performance was designed so there would be, as much as possible, something for everybody: a bit of folk, a nice cross-section of classical music from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries and brave exploration of what guitar and keyboards can do with the "anything goes" world of 20th century Jazz.

"We like the varied program to contrast with the classical period," Mr. Feuerstein told The Herald prior to last week's concert. "My own style has a lot of 'eclectic' elements in it like folk-rock, jazz, classical music."

Literature on the album cover describes the Feuersteins as having attained national acclaim as "child prodigies" in Romania. Mrs. Feuerstein was composing music when she was five years old.

They married in the early 1970s, and after a brief sojourn in Israel, moved to Canada in 1973. They left briefly to study in Europe.

**LIONA BOYD**  
Mr. Feuerstein has at birth, a kangaroo is less than 1 inch long. National Geographic World magazine reports. The infant spends the first five months of its life inside its mother's fur-lined pouch.

worked extensively on composing and his material has been recorded by Liona Boyd. He has also written for guitarist David Russell.

His music has been published in Europe, as well as North America, and his latest material is found in "Collection of Guitar Solos" published

by Editions Orphees. Mrs. Feuerstein's musical background stretches beyond the study of piano: she has

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## Playboy TV opposed by trustees

All but one trustee voted Thursday night in protest of pornographic programs on pay TV.

The motion introduced last week by Halton Hills trustee Arlene Bruce sought to make people more aware of the effects of their choice.

The protest motion warned against the "negative influences" of pornography on young adults or children who may view it as reality.

Pornography portrays promiscuity in a circus-like atmosphere and can be most destructive to the growth of healthy attitudes, the motion read.

Trustees were responding to the news that First Choice pay TV plans to screen Playboy-produced programming.

"If we are trying to teach children to become responsible, committed adults, with respect for themselves and the oppo-

site sex, surely this has the potential to wipe out everything we are trying to do in our schools," trustees maintained in their motion.

Halton Hills trustee Dick Howitt originally opposed to the Board's involvement in the pay-TV issue, supported fellow trustee Bruce's motion.

"I still have mixed feelings whether it's really the board's position to be involved in this issue; but I felt it wasn't a contentious issue and that I could easily support it since I really agreed with its basic principles," Mr. Howitt said. "I feel strongly enough about it that, personally, I could support it."

The board's protest motion will be forwarded to the federal and provincial governments, the CRTC and the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario.

## Gliding introduction Feb. 9

# Skyward bound

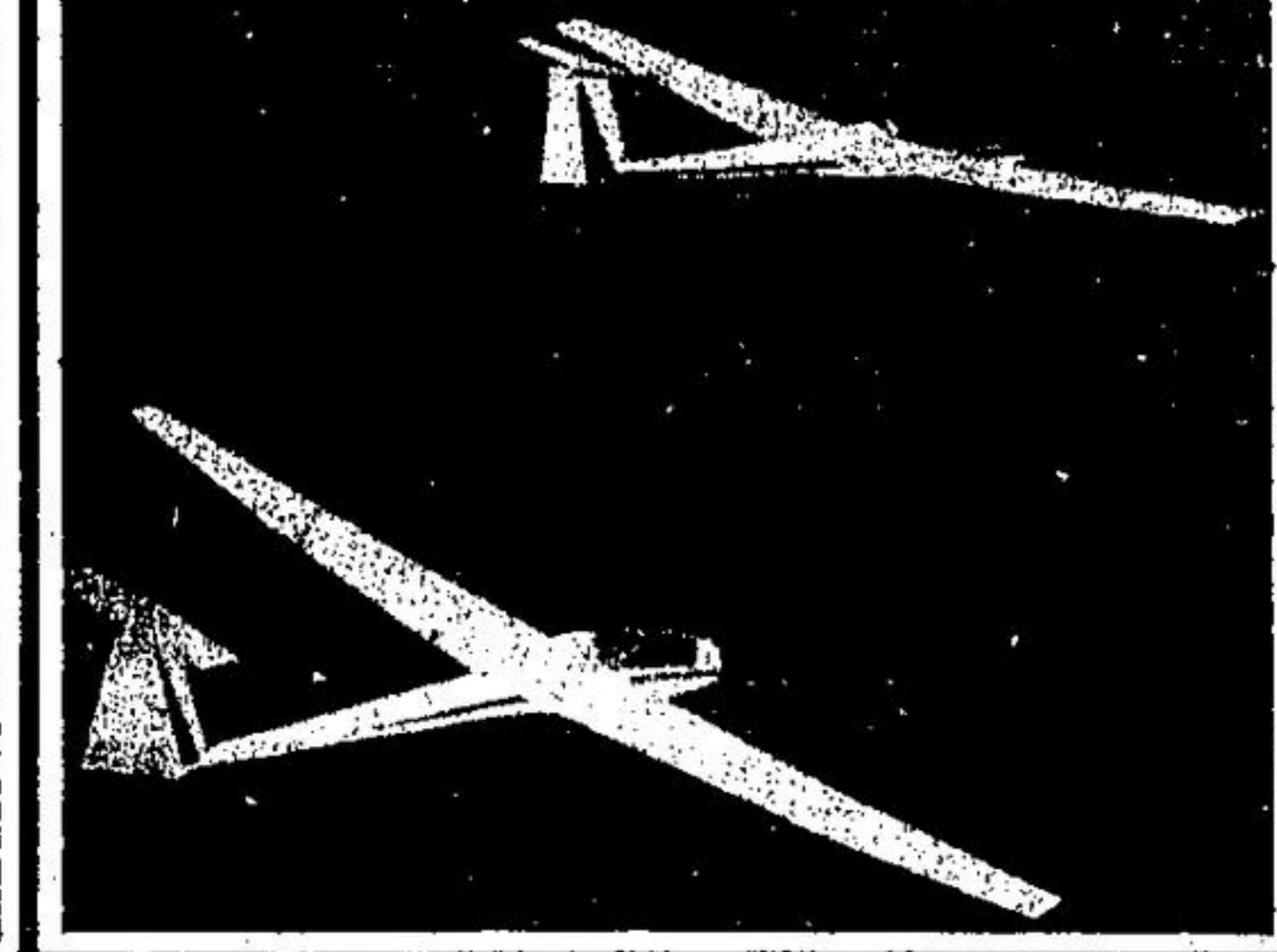
Does the wild blue yonder occasionally beckon? The Erin Soaring Society might be able to help you get there.

Claiming a number of local members, the Society is holding an open house this Friday night at St. George's Anglican Church in Georgetown to introduce would-be flyers to the wonders of gliding and soaring.

The free open house, beginning at 8 p.m., is a prelude to a 12-week ground school course that starts next Wednesday (Feb. 9) at the Brampton public library. Instructors will cover soaring, theory of flight, meteorology, instruments, airmanship and navigation, gearing the course to the glider pilot exam administered by Transport Canada. Cost is \$35.

Friday's open house will feature a video presentation on the 1982 Canadian national championships and two other soaring movies. On hand will be some several qualified instructors and some club members who will be lecturing as part of the upcoming course.

For more information, call Ian Oldaker of Georgetown at 877-1581 or drop by the open house and see what soaring is all about.



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## Acton pupils organize talent show

Acton's McKenzie-Smith Middle School has come up with an interesting fund-raiser.

Students and some very special invited guests are getting together for an evening of entertainment next Tuesday (Feb. 8), an evening entitled "Tunes and Talent".

The event will begin at 7:45 p.m. in the Acton High School cafeteria. It will be the debut of the McKenzie-Smith's new band and Guelph's Royal City Ambassadors, a 50-voice "barber shop" choir have also graciously donated their time.

Meanwhile McKenzie-Smith school and other students have talented plans of their own. Money raised from the event will help buy school uniforms, finance field trips and other costs not normally covered by school tax money.

Admission is \$3.50 for adults and \$1.50 for kids.

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