

# Festival Five Comes Alive



Lola Fraser sings out at the John Elliott Theatre Friday night. As part of the Festival Five celebrations, Globe Productions, Georgetown Lit-

tle Theatre and the Georgetown Choral Society performed for an appreciative audience. (Photo by Simon Wilson)



Classical guitarists Peter McAllister (left) and Donald Wilson (right) rehearse prior to their performance Sunday at the Festival Five Brunch held at the Cultural Centre. The Toronto musicians were the featured artists at the Brunch and performed for about an hour before an enthusiastic audience. (Herald photo)



Getting ready for Friday's performance, these three actor-singers practise their harmonies. Festival

Five Friday featured one act plays, musicals and choral arrangements. (Herald photo)

## EVERYTHING'S DUCKY

Local talent night a hit with performers, audience

Amateur performers took to the John Elliott Theatre stage like ducks take to water. They loved it - and so did an appreciative audience last Wednesday for local talent night.

Things began just "ducky" when preschoolers Ashley Johnson, Cameron Sisset and Katie Fraser started the show rolling. Dressed in yellow fur with beaks of orange and white, these three ducklings sang two numbers, Six Little Ducks and Skid-a-mer-ink. It didn't matter if they were in perfect harmony or even if they didn't remember all the words. They were cute with a capital C.

Tara Hamilton took to the microphone next, singing Gee, I'm Glad I'm No One Else But Me. The five-year veteran of Halton Hills talent night chose a pleasing song.

For her next number she moved on to the piano for the tune Arabesque. Grade 9 Bishop Reding Separate School student Karen Wittmer displayed emotion and feeling singing Greatest Love of All. Dressed in black pants and a thin narrow leather tie with a white blouse, Karen received a good applause for her efforts.

The Jill Evans School of Dance performed two ballet numbers for the audience. These dancers are dance festival winners in regional competition and it was easy to see why. They were graceful, flowing dancers beautifully dressed in purple costumes. Ballet members were: Megan Duncan, Nicole Enge, Bethan Evans, Kristi Kanapka, Jennifer Kinnear, Chelsey Lumb, Bobbie Marchand and Alison Ternoway.

Also from the Jill Evans dance school were the jazz dancers Becky Boudton, Lisa Carter, Roni Cook, Louise Evans and Jennifer Halsall. In their bright flashy costumes, they moved in unison to quick, upbeat music. The fivesome could have filled in capably at a variety show as a backup group for a pop singer. They moved in a very professional manner.

Kerri-Anne Van DeValk was next on stage, singing That's What Friends Are For. The Grade 6 student looked relaxed as she sang and she expressed the mood of the song well with her facial expressions and movement. A pleasing voice, she did well to tackle all those high notes in the song. A good applause followed her number.

The toe-tapping and hand clapping started with Lou Darcie on piano and Jack Layman on the fiddle.

The duo warmed up with a slower, more classical piece than their next two numbers. When they got to a barn-dance type tune, the audience couldn't hold back and soon people everywhere were clapping along. By popular demand, they stayed for a fourth short number which also had an upbeat tempo.

The hardwork of choreographer Cheryl Broughton and music coordinators Paul Brisley and Louis Barrager could be detected as the Centennial Alumni Choir performed music from American Pop. Dressed as kids from the fifties, complete with slicked-back haircuts and bobbie-socks, the singers moved about on stage singing with strength, har-

mony and conviction. The audience loved the quick pace and the medley of tunes, comic scenes and colorful costumes.

Members of the Alumni choir are: Sara Gurr, Kathy Dawson, Heather Bruton, Carol Frost, Jennifer Hod-dinott, Cindy Dawson, Gillian Johnston, Cynthia Algar, Shannon Marshall, Tracy Weeks, Mary-Lynn McVittie, Chris Barrager, Stephanie Schoffelemeier, Jenny Daniels, Mark Duke, Ian Vint, Andrew Payne, Peter Rasanen, Mark Micklethwaite, Sam Hancock, Cam Oomen, Deserie Mau, Gabie Nagel, Linda Ho, Tammy-Jo Hall, Mary Bilik, Helen Bilik, Karen Daniell, Janet Micklethwaite.

The second half of the program started with a bang, as the rock groups took over. The band First Class, with Greg Onoprijenko, Jeff Levenberger, Mike Beltenger, Richie McKeown and Heath Lockhurst played Fast Times from Ridgmont High as their opening number, featuring Heath on vocals.

Patricia MacFarlane broke through the heavy metal sounds with a solo entitled Almost Over You. Dressed in a beautiful pink dress, she had a clear voice with good projection.

Hard rock was next on the docket, this time featuring Duane Wilson, Jeff Waterworth and Doug Staddon from the group Dreadnaught. Their two songs were instrumentals called Battle of Jutland and In the Mood.

Jennifer Hewitt and Sarah Howitt then teamed up for a number called The Rose. Both got a good applause for their efforts. Sarah on the clarinet did well to keep in perfect sequence with vocalist Jennifer, who had a smooth, controlled voice.

For something completely different, comic George Mitchell played a harmonica medley. His costume earned rave reviews from the crowd, as he was dressed in an array of tartan, plastic and cloth, plus shorts and a full-length bib.

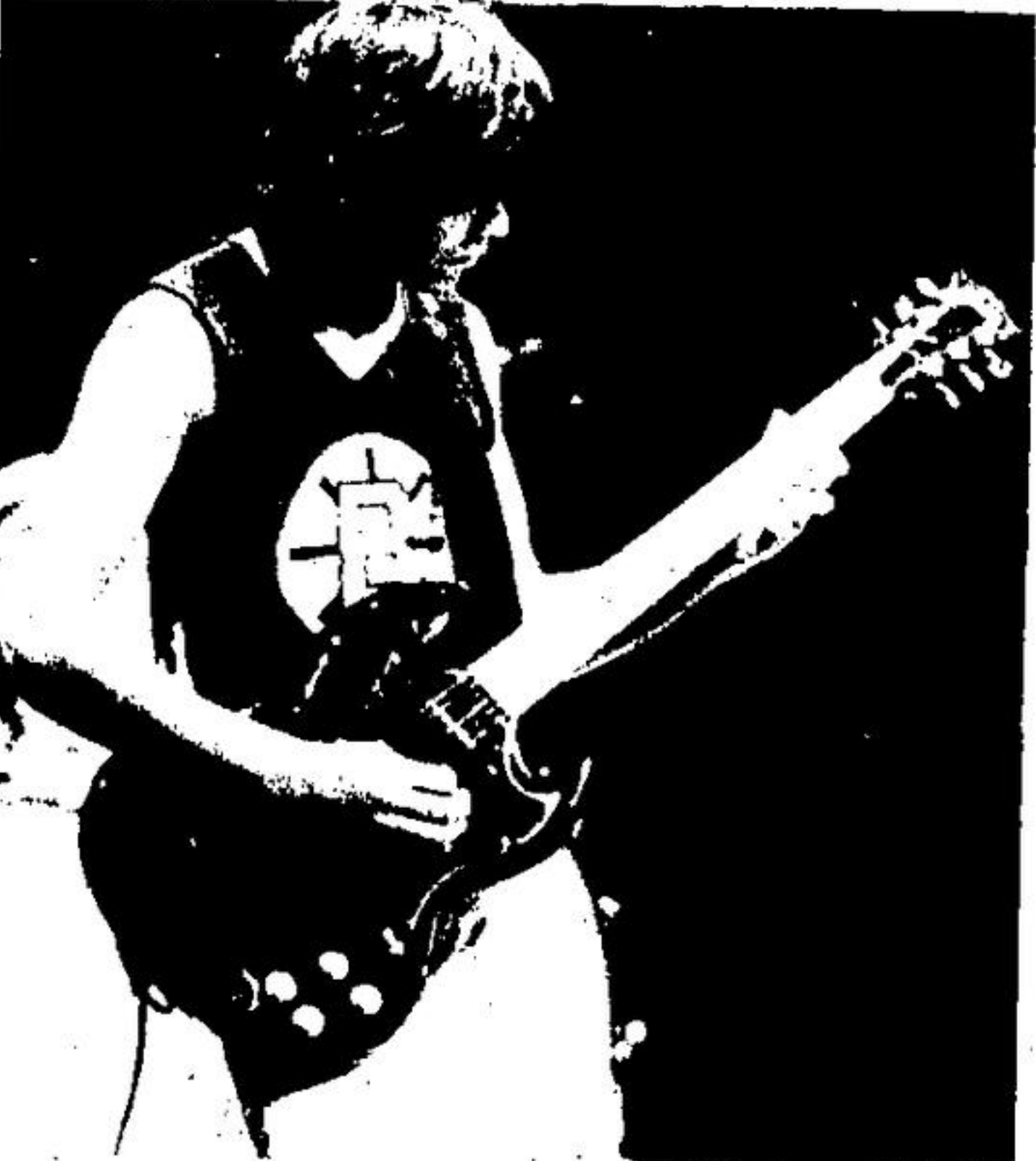
Back to sweet sounds, a flute duet by Suzanne Parker and Rhonda Lessey sounded very professional.

Peter Roe brought the giggles back with a comedy act called Bill Cosby Fights Back. He managed to master many of the facial expressions of Cosby, had some sounds of effects of his own and even had his timing down pretty good.

A very mystical tune was the background music for a dancer of 11 years, Tanya Abuhar, entitled Sifling. The blond-haired dancer floated around the stage in a nicely-styled black gown. Her movements had a graceful, hypnotic effect.

Leslie Ross from the Etobicoke School of the Arts performed for her third year in a row at talent night singing You're the Inspiration. Showing no sign of stage fright, she was all smiles and she had a pleasing voice.

Ending the night were two dancers, Melanie Jans, doing a modern dance number called Cloudy. She was followed by Laura Groskorth, who performed a classical ballet dance to the tune The Blue Danube. Both showed poise and excellent technical skills, looking like little toy dolls.



Two rock bands kept the teenagers happy at talent night. Appearing were First Class and Dreadnaught. The latter group played two in-

strumentals, Battle of Jutland and In the Mood. (Photo by Simon Wilson)



George Matchell had fun on stage, telling jokes and playing his harmonica. He was a crowd-pleaser! (Photo by Simon Wilson)



The three little ducklings were cute with a capital C. Kicking off talent night were Ashley Johnson, Cameron Sisset and Katie Fraser. (Photo by Simon Wilson)

## New Orleans jazz on theatre doorstep

By Wanda Campbell  
Herald special

On Saturday night, the Halton Hills cultural centre was transformed into a New Orleans party room, a place where jazz thrived in the early part of this century. This toe-tapping journey into the past was made possible by the Sensation Jazz Band accompanied by the honey-smooth voice of Norval singer Zoe Kendall.

As the lights dimmed, Brian Graville, the dynamic leader of the band and a resident of Georgetown, invited a capacity crowd to join them on a journey to Dixieland. Mr. Graville, on trumpet, was accompanied by Bryan Day, also from Georgetown, on bass, Trevor Hodgson on clarinet, Jurgen Hesse on banjo, Grahame Parker on trombone, and Peter Sindle as percussionist.

The evening's program was designed to give full play to each band member's musical talent and versatility. Mr. Graville also took his turn at the piano, and Mr. Hodgson moved from clarinet to saxophone with ease. The variety of instruments provided a surprisingly full and harmonious sound. Instrumentals were alternated with lyric pieces and jazzy uptempo

songs with moody blues.

As the band launched into a ragtime tune originally played by the Red Hot Peppers, members of the audience may have been wishing there was a dance floor. Clapping and toe-tapping were an early sign that they enjoyed hearing the music as much as the band enjoyed playing it.

Mr. Graville crooning "My Blue Heaven" was only the start of numerous solos from different band members. And Zoe Kendall, elegant in a sequined dress, gave powerful renditions of such classics as "Stormy Weather" and "All of Me." Though her expressively throaty voice and poised delivery enhanced the performance, she complimented rather than upstaged the band who backed her up with their assured and energetic style.

The band offered not only a treat for the ears, but a visual spectacle as well. In addition to flashing brass, twirling drumsticks and racing fingers the band showed off a variety of hats throughout the evening, from grey fedoras for the vintage jazz to wide-brimmed straw hats for an upbeat calypso number complete with tambourine, whistles and maracas. Mr. Graville, Mr. Parker and Mr. Hodgson even donned wigs for a brief, but funny appearance as the Supremes.

Other comic touches were supplied by drummer Pete Sindle who feather dusted bassist Bryan Day as he prepared to sing "Paper Doll" and responded to Trevor Hodgson's delightfully silly solo "Never Swat a Fly" by tossing a rubber fly onto centre stage.

Despite the relaxed and hearty performance, the band members never let the audience forget they were accomplished musicians by moving through complex melodies of old classics with ease and flare.

Who could help but hum along with such rousing favorites as "Good Night Irene" and "The Happy Wanderer"? Though the era may be gone, the moods and emotions remain. Grahame Parker reminded the audience just how contemporary the old music really is with a tongue-in-cheek rendition of the "Empty Bed Blues."



Laura Groskorth performed The Blue Danube for the audience at local talent night last Wednesday. (Photo by Simon Wilson)

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