

Entertainment

Georgetown Choral Society 20 years young

Herald Special Twenty Years Young

In the spring of 1971, 36 brave souls spawned the Georgetown Choral Society. They wasted little time having their first concert in June, at the high school.

It is impossible not to connect the choir's founding with the late Ralph Ursel. This inspirational leader had the priceless gift of building strong, secure, yet covert foundations while leaving the painting and decorating to others. So Ralph became the accompanist to Charles Crimes direction. Rehearsals took place in Ralph's Music Room at the school.

Joan Beoney, Wilma Grosforth, Violet Haines, Joyce Hewson, Joane Mackie, Vivian Mills and Lynn Purdy remain from those original ladies and Doug Cole, presently on a short sabbatical, from the men. Not quite 40% of the original members continue to sing in local church choirs.

However, the choir has lost some stalwarts, May Beaumont, Doreen Merrill, Ralph Ursel and Del D'entremont of the originals.

Many of the originals continue to play key roles in the choir from ticket convening, telephone committee to archivist. The problems from the earlier days are quite similar to those the choir faces today.

In the early days there was difficulty finding a suitable concert hall - one which had resonance and a 500 seating capacity.

The Choral Society tried Mayfield but finances and local obligations had them play at home, at Georgetown District High School.

Their first garments cost \$3.75/yard and there were debates as to the proper length for the fall of the skirt.

Today the material costs three times as much but today's Dress Director, Sandra Krosse, can be heard defining the instep and en-

couraging the ladies, "No you won't trip over your skirt at that length."

Annual fees at the outset were set at \$10.00/year and tickets to concerts were set at \$1.00. These numbers have been inflated with a multiplier of at least five. Choristers were implored to sell at least five tickets each, now doubled; more in hope than reality.

Choirs are fun places. They are happy throwbacks to days when people functioned as communities, supportive, sharing resources and information. The togetherness is in the choir's bones, the song in the choir's souls.

It is only when the choir functions beyond itself, that those involved understand how bone and soul intermingle with the way the world is meant to unfold.

Why not mark 8 p.m., May 4, Georgetown High School, or May 10, Holland Christian Homes, to hear the combined Achill Georgetown Choirs celebrate their 20th anniversary.

Orford String Quartet to visit Brampton

The world renowned Orford String Quartet comes to Brampton's Heritage Theatre for a very special concert on Friday, April 19th, 1991.

This season marks the 25th anniversary for the quartet, which began in Mt. Orford, Quebec. However, this season also marks the final for the Orford. The Orford String Quartet will disband in July, which means this concert provides a rare opportunity for Brampton area audiences.

William Littler, the Toronto Star's music critic reported recently, "The Orford, after all, is the finest string quartet

Canada has ever produced and one of the finest produced anywhere during the past quarter century."

The Heritage Theatre concert program will include Mozart's String Quartet in F Major, Dimitri Scostakovich's Quartet for Strings no. 8, and Beethoven's Opus 135 in F Major.

Tickets for the Orford String Quartet concert are popularly priced at \$15 (plus G.S.T.). The Heritage Theatre is located at 88 Main Street in downtown Brampton.

For tickets and information contact the Box Office at 874-2800.

Guelph Spring Festival promises wonderful event

The Guelph Spring Festival will once again be offering the opportunity to take tea or partake in a delicious brunch while enjoying a wonderful concert event. This year Catherine Wilson's Trio Vivant will be entertaining with a delightful mixture of classical, ragtime and contemporary music at the Festival's ever popular Brunch and Tea events. Brunch and tea will take place this year on Mother's Day, providing an excellent opportunity to treat your special relative to an extraordinary experience.

The talented and versatile ensemble of Catherine Wilson (piano), Marie Berard (violin) and Amanda Forsyth (cello) have won rave reviews for their numerous concert appearances throughout Canada and the United States. The trio have recorded two discs - "Palm Court Pleasures" and "Palm Court Encores," to which the

media has reacted ecstatically. Their first recording, "Palm Court Pleasures" was described as "beyond flawless" by CBC Radio personality Bob Kerr, while respected Toronto Star reviewer William Littler called the disc "vastly entertaining."

Catherine Wilson's Trio Vivant's charming Brunch and Tea appearances will leave us with the impression we are dining in an elegant restaurant of yesteryear where music was provided by a live chamber ensemble!

The Festival's annual Brunch and Tea events will take place on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12 at the Arboretum Centre, University of Guelph. Brunch will be at 11:00 with Tea beginning at 3:00. These events have always been extremely popular so the public is advised to order tickets as soon as possible by calling the Festival Box Office at (519) 821-7570.

Make your move.

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