Choral Society special

On May 4 at Georgetown District High School and on May 10 at Holland Christian Homes in Brampton, A. Dale Wood will direct the combined Georgetown and Achill Choral Societies in their Spring Concert. The concert will feature Vaughan Williams' stunning Sea Symphony, full of power and majesty, which will be complemented with a selection of folk songs and spirituals.

Most superb musicians, like Dale Wood, find Vaughan Williams a particular challenge. The music has folk roots which hit suddenly, taking the listener back to an earlier, perhaps pristine, time when life was simpler. It is important to capture the nuances, the simplicity as well as the vision and glory. The folkiness of the melodies recall those early friends whiling away the hours, learning how to get along, making noise, having fun..

The root of the word absurd comes via Greek alogos - speechless or irrational - to the Latin surdus or deaf. The hot mathematicians will recognize surd - traditional - in absurd. It is no fluke that sight, often thought to be a prime sense, is logical and cold, while hearing is warm ard all embracing. Indeed, we listen with our bodies; head, mind, emotions, hands, eyes and all. Be sensible, look; be human; listen.

Lou Darcie, one of our choristers, does a lot of hospice visiting. He loves to tell the story of one of his friends who cannot talk but, hit the piano, and the clear, soprano rises to a high A and beyond with no uncertainty or loss, words and all. Music, mysterious, is right brain stuff. It was there before we could think and it will be around when thinking fades. In between, it taps into the soul when depressed, hurt, unloved or suffering any of the other exclusions which destory us.

A massed choir taps into these streams of optimism unfailingly, whatever the repertoire. If you haven't heard 100 voices sing their hearts out, captured by the music, the signal that binds you to the yearnings of the mass of humanity, has passed you by. Why not fix it now by talking to a choir member, or visiting Norman Holt, at Oxbow Books, and buy tickets for the concerts to help you listen with your body; mind, heart and soul as well.

Mother Goose Concert

Glen Williams Public School primary grade students played to a packed house in the school's gymnasium last Tuesday with a theatrical performance that would have rated raves on Broadway. The Glen Williams Public School primary grade students performed a 'Mother Goose Concert' to an appreciative audience. (Herald Photo by Colin Gibson)

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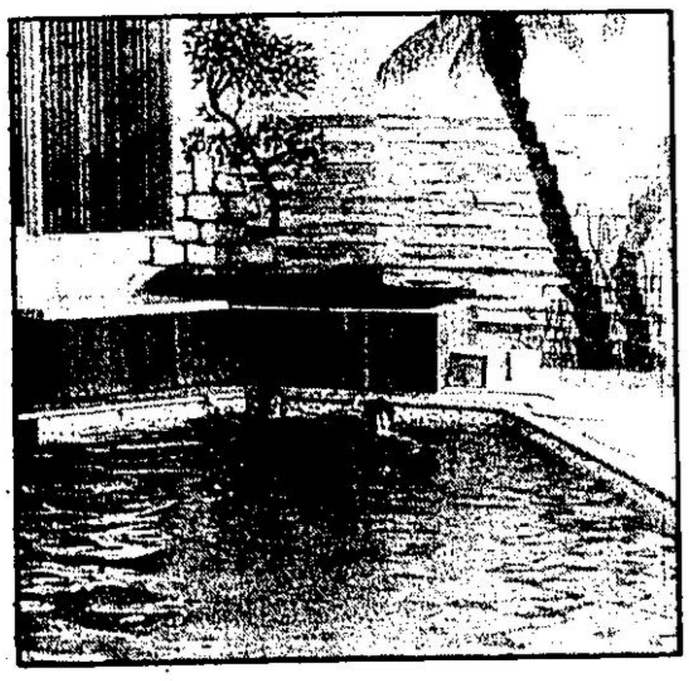

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