

# Entertainment



## The Choral Society provides noteworthy musical experience

By DONNA GUMULAK

The Georgetown Choral Society celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and although I've learned much in my four years as a member, I still consider myself a "rookie." I have no voice training to my credit yet I have always loved singing and upon moving to Georgetown with my family five years ago, a choral society audition became a temptation I could not resist.

I still remember how my heart raced and the obvious jitter in my voice as I timidly peeped out a number of scales for the choir's director, Dale Wood. His reassurance put me a trifle more at ease and after being accepted as a second soprano, I anxiously awaited the first rehearsal.

Little did I know that the major work for the first concert that season was none other than John Rutter's "Gloria." I recall gulping hard upon leafing through the musical score for the first time and I heard a small voice inside distinctively saying, "You've got to be kidding." But as weeks of rehearsals went by, Dale took the choir step by step, section by section and the voices first reluctant and unsure, grew more confident and less hesitant. When concert time arrived, the music which had first seemed so difficult and intimidating, was mastered.

I finally appeared with the choral society in my first concert with them, butterflies, sweaty palms and all. I worried about dropping my music and tripping over my dress, about losing my place among the seemingly endless array of notes, but stood

before the audience managing a nervous smile.

The choir however, was so warmly received that I was soon put at ease and later, the audience's applause assured me, assured all of us, that the weeks of practice were undoubtedly worthwhile.

I have come to realize that the continued success of The Georgetown Choral Society is based on the faithful dedication and perseverance of both choral members and their director and that Monday evenings are reserved for a group of people from all walks of life who meet with a common goal, sharing hard work and good times in bringing musical scores to life. Each concert performed is a labor of love, a love which has kept the choral society alive and steadily growing since its founding in 1971.

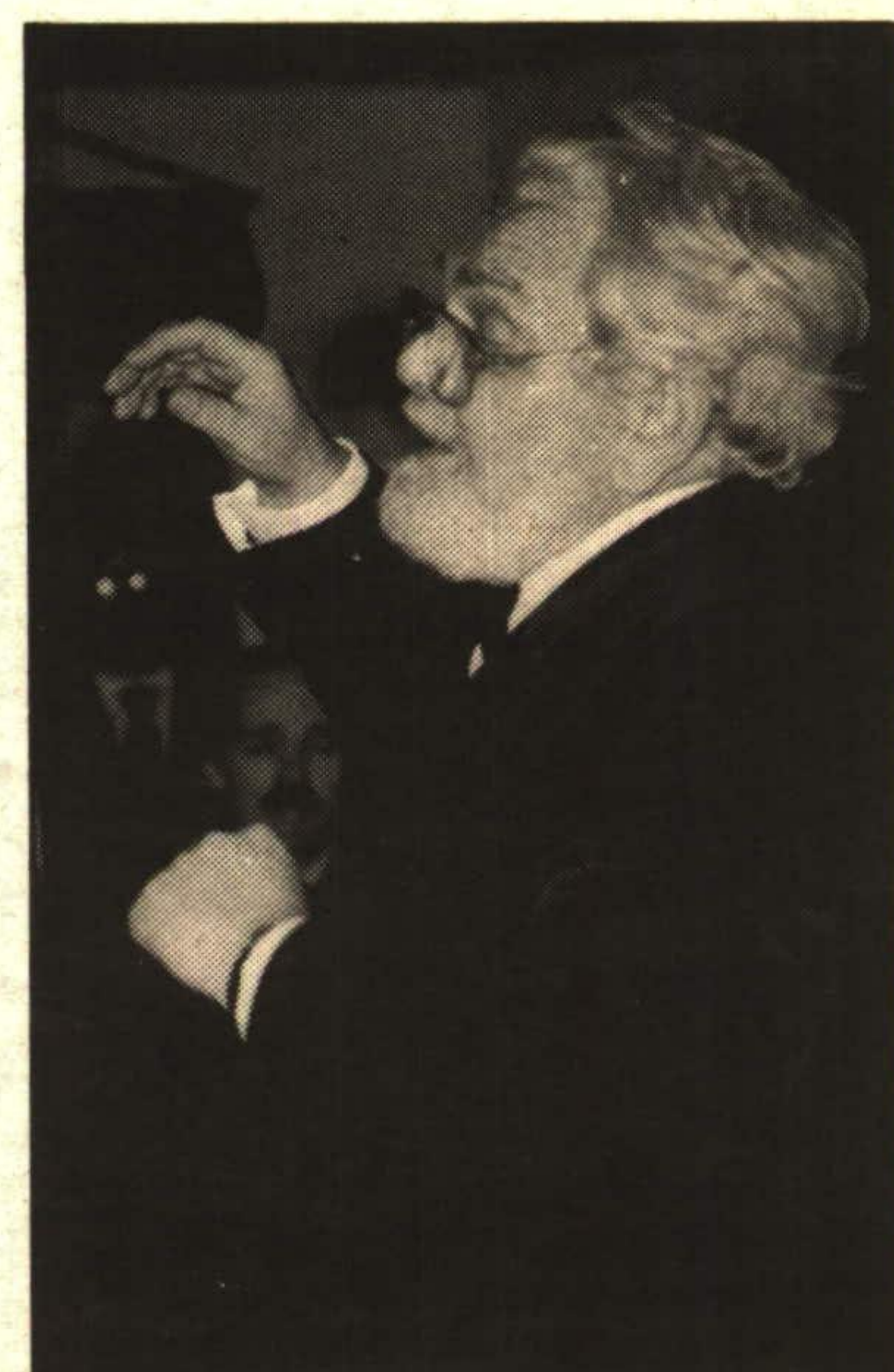
Twenty years has not diminished the choir's enthusiasm, nor its commitment to presenting a first class performance and in four concerts with Tottenham's Achill Choral Society this spring, members of the choral society shall celebrate their history, bringing with them the same spirit, devotion and pride which has spanned two decades and whose appreciation by audiences both locally and abroad, surely makes the sweaty palms and butterflies worthwhile.

The Georgetown/Achill choral societies invite you to attend their spring celebration, May 4 at Georgetown District High School, May 10 at Holland Christian Homes in Brampton. Please watch your newspaper for further details.



The Canadian Orpheus Male Choir, straight from Roy Thomson Hall, made an appearance at Acton's Beth-El Reformed Church last Saturday evening to delight onlookers. It is the second time the choir has visited Acton. The evening began with a prayer led by church president John Van Egmond and followed with a 2 1/2 hour performance of glorious religious, operatic and light popular entertainment. At right, Master Conductor Lyn Harry put body and soul and a great deal of humor into his role. Left, the lyrical voice of soloist, Shelly Kang accompanied the choir in an operatic ballad that stunned the audience with its beauty.

Photos by BARB STEPHENS



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