

# Musicians returning to Yugoslavia

By GARRY J. MURDOCK

Georgetown residents will soon be losing two very talented musicians from Yugoslavia who have been living in the community since February.

Janez Govednik, a conductor, and his wife, Dragana Krstic, a soprano singer for both Opera and Concert performances are going back to their homeland in three weeks.

They came here not only to visit relatives, but to experience a country they had only heard about. Most importantly, they had a strong desire to learn about the Canadian music industry and how it functions.

Since February, they have spent a great deal of time sitting in on various rehearsals of different professional musical groups, including the Toronto Philharmonic Orchestra and the Canadian Opera Company. As well, they have spent time meeting with many musical artists, including famous Canadian conductor Paul Robinson, who they first met two years ago in Yugoslavia.

Both speak English fluently.

"(The system)... of working, of organizing, is different here," Dragana Krstic said. "Conductors, members of the Orchestra, choir, everyone is a full time worker in Yugoslavia. Here (in Canada), it is by contract."

This is good, she added, because it allows for variety, but it also has a negative aspect to it because there are not any full time jobs for singers. Krstic started singing at the age of 14.

Krstic had her first professional debut in a leading role at the age of 17 in a Comic Opera. But she didn't always know singing was to be her life.

"My father is a musician. He desperately needed me. So I started on the piano. Then I broke my hand and had to stop," she said with a smile. "Then, after, I broke my other hand. Piano was lost... Then the flute. But that lasted for only a few months. Then I met a teacher who wanted to teach me to sing, so I started to learn."

Having completed her secondary schooling in music in 1986 and having graduated from the Music Academy in 1990 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, Krstic has experienced much success in her profession at a young age, now only 25 years

old. She has spent two seasons with the National Opera Theatre in her homeland and has toured through Italy, Hungary and Romania. She loves Comic Opera because she feels no one should leave the theatre sad.

Her husband, Janez Govednik, however, started to learn music much earlier in life, as a boy in Subotica, Yugoslavia.

"He was different," his wife said with another smile, "Other boys liked to run and play in the streets. He liked to practice."

And practice he did; the piano, the clarinet, the accordion. He graduated from the Moscow Conservatory in 1976 and completed his post-graduate work at the Leningrad Conservatory, majoring in Operatic and Symphonic conducting.

During this time Govednik also performed as a conductor in the Opera Studio of the Moscow Conservatory for four years. Since 1988, his position has been and still is the Conductor of the National Theatre, Opera and Ballet, in Nova Sad, Yugoslavia.

"I'm in some ways, a teacher, an educator," he said. "Each person has a part, while I have to put everything together... I have to know what to say, what to expect, to change, to ask?"

This is especially difficult when one realizes that for any one opera, Govednik may have to prepare up to two months in advance before the first rehearsal. As for the most difficult part of his work, Mr. Govednik notes it is the vast amount of people he has to work with.

"It is very difficult to work with people sometimes. Up to 200 at a time. Everybody comes to rehearsals with their own problems. I have to get them all focused to think as one. They are expecting from me... I am not allowed to show my feelings. It is very difficult as I must be that focus."

As for the highlight of his career, Govednik said, "every new production is a new highlight. I try to make each one better than the one before".

"The people. They are nice, very friendly people," Govednik said of Canada.



Janez Govednik and his wife Dragana Krstic soon return to Yugoslavia after staying in Georgetown for the past few months.

What impressed his wife Dragana more about this country, however, was the order and discipline of the music industry.

"At the Canadian Opera Company, when they say rehearsal is at 2 p.m., it's at two!" she said, "but in Yugoslavia, it is not like that. At two, people will still be drinking their coffee. I don't like that. I like to go to work right away."

As for the highlight of her career, it was when she became the first young singer to perform in a concert in her hometown of Belgrade, Yugoslavia, that featured the music of Strauss. Only one young singer is picked every year and it is considered quite an honour.

"I feel good after a performance, not tired," she said.

She also pointed out how much different the education system is in Canada as opposed to her homeland. Schooling in Yugoslavia at the University level is free, and post-graduate work is usually covered by companies who like to see their employees better themselves.

This means, however, that competition is high and entrance exams are very, very difficult. The cut-off level for certain studies of professions (such as doctor, lawyer) is extremely severe.

"But it's never too late", Govednik said. "If you work hard and you really want it, you can succeed."

The couple are thinking about opening a private music school back in Nova Sad, Yugoslavia,

where they currently live and work. This was not possible before they left, but now because of the political changes that have occurred in the country during their absence, they may have the ability to do so upon their return. As teachers, they will continue to work together as they do now in the National Opera Theatre.

As for sticking around in Canada, they have no plans to immigrate, nor will they return for a visit for probably a very long time.

"We have jobs," Dragana said. "We've built so hard for what we left there. We can't just leave and lose that?"

"Visiting is nice for a while," Janez said, "but work makes it more interesting. But we'll see. Nobody knows."

**HALTON HILLS  
THIS WEEK**  
873-2254

**MINIATURE  
GOLF**  
JOIN US FOR FUN!  
TUITMAN'S GARDEN CENTRE  
Hwy 25 - 2km South of Acton  
853-2480

**HALTALARM**  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA!

**HALTALARM SYSTEMS INC.**

• Security • Intercom  
& Vacuum Systems

**HOME & BUSINESS**

**873-2500**

Our Customers Are Our Best Advertising!  
164 Guelph St., Halton Hills, Ont. L7G 4A6

## TOYOTALLY AWESOME DEALING DAYS SUMMER SIZZLERS

'92 TERCELS  
16 to choose  
\$100 OVER FACTORY INVOICE

'92 COROLLA LSX  
10 to choose  
\$100 OVER FACTORY INVOICE  
\*(or free air on LSX Selects)

NO REASONABLE  
OFFER REFUSED  
ON ANY '92  
VEHICLE!

92 SPORT PASEO  
\$500 OVER FACTORY INVOICE

CAMRYS ARE  
GOING FAST.  
COME MAKE YOUR  
BEST DEAL TODAY!

### RESALE SPECIALS • RESALE SPECIALS • RESALE SPECIALS

90 Celica GT Red Auto, AM/FM Cass., Tilt, Cruise, 44,000 km, Clean <b>\$14,995<sup>00</sup></b>	88 Camaro Sport White, Auto, Spoilers, Alloy Wheels, Air, AM/FM Cass., Pwr. Group & More <b>\$8,995<sup>00</sup></b>	86 Nissan Pulsar 5 Speed, Blue, AM/FM Cass., Sunroof, 57,000 km <b>\$4,995<sup>00</sup></b>	89 V6 Camry LE White, Auto, PWR. GRP, AM/FM Cass., Tilt, Cruise, Loaded <b>\$13,295<sup>00</sup></b>
---	--	---	--

All used cars include safety, lube, oil and filter (Taxes and license extra)

The New



**GEORGETOWN TOYOTA 1991 LTD.**

15 Mountainview Rd. N.

877-2296

Tor 846-5141

