

Liberation Choir to give concert in Georgetown

By BREN CHISHOLM

With the month of December quickly approaching, your calendar will be chock full of events and family parties to attend. You just may want to ease yourself into the season and take in a performance by the award-winning Liberation Choir on Saturday, November 13, 2004, at the Georgetown Christian Reformed Church (GCRC) commencing at 8:00 pm.

The Liberation Choir is considered to be one of Canada's leading choirs and has a diverse and dedicated membership of 130 men and women of all ages, backgrounds and religions.

Although close to 75 per cent of the members are of Dutch descent, the number of people of different nationalities continue to grow. It's obvious the common denominator is their love of the music and the friendships that have been developed.

Rehearsals are held every second Monday at the Second Christian Reformed Church of Brampton. Amazingly enough, members travel as far away as St. Catharines, Newmarket, Cayuga, Orangeville and Peterborough and not even our cold Canadian winters seem to deter them.

It all began in 1993 when a group of Dutch Canadians got together to participate in the 50th anniversary celebrations of the liberation of The Netherlands by Canadian troops who, in 1945 stepped in to end more than five years of Nazi occupation.

When the choir toured The Netherlands in 1995, they were astounded by the positive response they received and have made two equally successful repeat visits. George Bergsma (a bass) has been a member with his wife, Shirley (an alto), since the choir was founded. "The choir has been special to The Netherlands", says George speaking of why they had originally formed, "and everyone enjoyed the choir so much, we wanted to keep going!"

His friend and fellow choir member Andy Sterlinga says, "There's lots of the variety in the program. We do some Latin pieces, 'Jacob's Ladder', Handel's 'And the

Glory of the Lord', and even a song from 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Coat'.

The November 13 concert will also celebrate the completion of a \$1.6 million reconstruction of the GCRC, which is a wonderful contribution to the community of Georgetown as well as being a prized venue with recording-worth acoustics for visiting performers.

The carefully selected 90-minute program on the night of the 13 will offer up classical, contemporary and spiritual music. Willem van Suijdam of Burlington, well known as a concert pianist and organist will conduct. Willem's background includes an intense musical education at the Royal Conservatory in Hilversum, Alkmaar and then in Paris, under the world-renowned organist Jean Guillou. The organist for the evening will be Ian Sadler, who played the organ in the acclaimed film, "Chariots of Fire".

Worth noting is the fact that last year, the choir held its 10th anniversary concert at Hamilton Place. In addition, the Liberation Choir has four CDs and one live concert video under their belt.

Tickets for the Georgetown concert are \$15.00 and are available at Bergsma's Paint and Wallpaper store in the Georgetown Mall or by calling 905-877-4193. They will also be sold at the door on the night of the concert. Seating is first-come, first served and the doors open at 7:30 pm.

For more information about the concert and ticket purchases, call Shirley Bergsma at 905-877-6638 or Lucy James at 905-877-8339.

For a sneak preview of the talent that awaits you, you can purchase the Liberation Choir's previous CDs by going to www.edelweiss.com



Liberation Choir's three CD covers

Trading in Ivory Piano House Burlington is now Canada's largest

By BREN CHISHOLM

Founded ten years ago, Piano House Burlington's reputation of quality has allowed it to grow from a store started with just a couple of pianos into Canada's largest piano retailer.

The company's owner, Willem van Suijdam, is a concert pianist and organist who studied at the Royal Conservatory in Zwolle, the Royal Conservatory in Hilversum, Alkmaar and then in Paris under world-renowned organist Jean Guillou. He is also the conductor of the Liberation Choir, which is one of Canada's premier choirs.

After immigrating to Canada from the Netherlands in 1986, Willem founded Piano House Burlington using his own musical experience as a guide. He wanted excellent instruments: a concert pianist would not settle for selling cheap pianos. Willem also knew that good instruments could be sold for considerably less than new dealer prices. With this combination of quality and value, Piano House Burlington has flourished.

Today Piano House Burlington is Canada's largest piano retailer. Their huge inventory of over 200 pianos and ten-year warranty are just two reasons why they have customers from all across North America. They specialize in used Yamaha and Kawai pianos, and also carry used Samicks, Young Changs and even pre-owned exclusive grands like Bechstein.

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