

Putting the rock in Rockwood

Brian Hewson records *Stompin Tom* in his *Escarpment Sound Studios*

By BREN CHISHOLM

Does twenty years sound like a long time to be working in the sound and recording industry? Not if you enjoy it and you're Brian Hewson of "Escarpment Sound Studios" in Rockwood. "It's nice to deal with music all day long," he says.

Hewson was a guitar player with a strong interest in music recording and equipment so he enrolled in the Media Arts Program at Sheridan College in Oakville, Ontario. "It was a 3-year course and I majored in the audio recording portion." While he was learning the ropes he got hands-on experience working with such talents as Rick Santer and Platinum Blonde.

Soon after graduation, he landed a great job at "Soundpath Productions" in Oakville, where he spent six years - first as an assistant, then as an engineer. Some truly great projects came his way such as Triumph's "Stages" album, The Spoons "Listen to the City" album, as well as a Lee Aaron album. His extensive work on commercials, demos, and soundtracks helped round out an already bursting portfolio.

As his expertise and confidence grew, so did his desire to go out on his own. "I opened my own small studio in Acton. At the same time, I was teaching an advanced audio class at Sheridan," explained Hewson who continued this for fourteen years.

Although there were a number of reasons for teaching during this busy time-frame, from an experience-gaining standpoint, it proved beneficial with the opening of his first studio. He even took on some extra freelance work as an engineer and live sound man during the same period.

It wasn't long before he realized he needed a larger place to branch out and it was in 1990 when something very special happened. "We got an 1896 stone barn on a 23-acre farm in Rockwood which is just great", says Hewson.

The studio itself was built in 1991 using the existing stone foundation. Within its walls, Hewson and Terry Medwedek of Group One Acoustics of Toronto designed and built an efficient 3,000 square foot pine and stone, 48-track studio which was appropriately named "Escarpment Sound Studio" because of the Niagara Escarpment running through the area. By 1991, the work was completed and he brought his family to live in a separate building directly next door.

With so much up and coming talent in the Rockwood area, there is never a shortage of recording opportunities. Hewson does work with various acts from the Guelph, Acton and Campbellville areas that range from rock, country, jazz and acoustics. Some of his more well-known artists include Kim Stockwood, Laura Bird and Doug Varty.

Canadian icon, Stompin' Tom Connors has just finished up his 8th album with Hewson who proudly says, "It's the only place he likes to record now!"

One of his most recent accomplishments has been his work with BC-based artist Sean Hogan with his hit tune, "Catalina Sunrise". It currently sits on the CMT Top 20 Video Countdown. The main tracks were laid down in "Escarpment Sound Studios" in two days.

Brian Hewson clearly loves what he does and even if they're long hours he has to put in, they are tremendously satisfying.

He laughs and says, "My wife complains sometimes she doesn't see me enough but..."

For more information on the "Escarpment Sound Studios", check out their website at www.escarpmentsound.com.



PHOTO BY BREN CHISHOLM

Brian Hewson at his "Escarpment Sound Studios" in Rockwood.

recreation & entertainment

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN HALTON

Sacred and profane, harp music comes of age

Sir Georg Solti Chamber Orchestra and harp soloist perform in Milton

By JENNIFER ENRIGHT

A mix of different classical musical styles came together easily in the course of one evening as people listened to the Sir Georg Solti Chamber Orchestra from Budapest, Hungary and harp soloist Katerina Englichova.

The latest musical offering by Milton Concert Presentations (MCP), the concert at St. Paul's United Church in Milton on November 26 featured the works of such musical greats as Mozart, Handel, Debussy, Pachelbel and Tchaikovsky, but along with these works there was a more modern work, a solo composition for the harp composed by Jan Fischer in 1972.

World-renowned classical harpist, Katerina Englichova, who accompanied the chamber orchestra on their North American tour, warned her audience that the composition would defy the stereotypical view of the harp. "Very often the harp is a symbol of an angelic instrument, but the harp is not angelic." In Ms. Englichova's capable hands, the music produced by this instrument was characterized by its strength.

Older, more traditional harp music was also part of the same evening with a performance of Handel's *Harp Concerto Opus 4, number 6*, performed by Ms. Englichova and the chamber orchestra. The evening also included performances of Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings, Opus*



Milton Concert Presentations (MCP) vice-chair Harvey Shoemaker was one of many people that got to meet harp soloist Katerina Englichova. Along with the Sir Georg Solti Chamber Orchestra, Katerina performed at a concert presented by MCP on November 26. After the performance, Katerina signed copies of her latest CD.

48, and Claude Debussy's *Danse Sacrée et Profane*.

The work by Debussy, a composer influenced by both Russian and Oriental music, also veered from the more traditional classical music of the evening. But the musicians didn't seem to have any difficulty alternating between the different styles, something that appeared to be appreciated by their audience. The evening ended with not one but two encores.

Milton Concert Presentation's next performance, featuring Canadian jazz musician Peter Appleyard, will be on January 14 at St. Paul's United Church. The concert begins at 8 pm. To purchase tickets, contact Milton Concert Presentations at 905-878-4732. For information on MCP, visit the website at www.artsmilton.ca.



The Sir Georg Solti Chamber Orchestra from Budapest, Hungary performed works by Mozart, Handel and Debussy as part of Milton Concert Presentations (MCP) latest concert. MCP's next concert on January 14 features Canadian jazz musician Peter Appleyard.

Top 10 Rentals

This week's Top Ten Movie Rentals brought to you by

ROGERS VIDEO

1. Spider-Man 2
2. The Terminal
3. Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban
4. Hero
5. Chronicles of Riddick
6. Elf
7. The Stepford Wives
8. Shrek 2
9. The Clearing
10. The Day After Tomorrow

New Release

Spider-Man 2

starring: Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst, Alfred Molina

Mild-mannered Peter Parker is still juggling the delicate balance of his dual life as a college student and a superhuman crime fighter. Spider-Man's life becomes even more complicated when he confronts a new nemesis, the brilliant Otto Octavius, who has been reincarnated as the maniacal and multi-tentacled "Doc Ock."

Rated: PG for some comic book style action