



KRIS KRINGLE? No, it's Len Tuitman selling Christmas trees at his garden centre on Highway 25.

Seniors enjoyed trip

Acton Golden Agers held their Christmas Party Wednesday, Dec. 9 at Luxton Hall. A turkey dinner with the trimmings was catered by Andy's Family Restaurant. A Christmas tree and decorated tableau helped to make it a festive occasion for the 44 members who attended.

Betty Green and Christine Robertson won a 50-50 draw. These two lucky gals are celebrating birthdays this month.

The IGA donated a beautiful red poinsettia, which

was won by Sandra Marzo. Glenda Benton played for a carol singalong and performed an instrumental of the beautiful "Star of the East." As many had different carol books, where words or verses were different, it made for an hilarious evening of fun and fellowship. The evening ended with a bountiful selection of Christmas goodies and coffee. Thanks to each and every one of you and Merry Christmas.

Messiah performance a real treat

When composer George Frideric Handel wrote what has become one of the most famous oratorios ever, the Messiah, he believed he was inspired by a glimpse into the Eternal. In a frenzy of musical creation, he fashioned the work over a scant 25 days.

For over two hours Friday night the Georgetown Choral Society, its four soloists and the Aradia Baroque Ensemble, all under the baton of A. Dale Wood, inspired an audience filling Holy Cross Church in Georgetown with its inspirational and stirring performance of the celebrated Christmas oratorio. It was a splendid Christmas bouquet for all of Halton Hills.

Fittingly, under the magnificent wrought-iron figure depicting the Second Coming of Christ, the 80-voice choir brought Handel's work to life with a majesty the composer must have envisioned as he created the score. It was an inspiring evening not just for the message but for the depth and professionalism of the performance. The performers really deserved the standing ovation they received at its close.

There was no fidgeting in the pews as the oratorio unfolded. Each soloist, professionals in their own right,

gave a new dimension to the text. The orchestra, a dozen young musicians who specialize in Baroque and 17th century as well as modern music, gave a special quality to the performance.

Capturing the inspiration and enthusiasm of the composer is no mean feat for even the most professional singers and musicians. It is especially difficult for the soloists to capture all the nuances of the score. Soprano Lisa Sullivan-Timney, alto Carolynne Godin, tenor Lenard Whiting and baritone Patrick Timney succeeded. The tremendous volume of the choir, from the opening "And the Glory of the Lord" to the triumphal Hallelujah Chorus and the final choruses, amplified Handel's vision. Dale Wood's magic with the baton, welding all these influences together with few flaws, was another feather in a long musical career. Surely there has never been a performance to equal this one in this area and well beyond. For those who missed Friday's concert, there is one more this Friday at Holy Cross. If you love music and there are tickets left it will measure up and beyond your expectations.

There may have been technical errors - perhaps someone didn't come in on cue, a slip in the tremolo - but they were barely noticeable to an audience enthralled by the majesty of the oratorio. First performed in Dublin, Ireland, the Messiah drew attention when King

George stood in tribute as the Hallelujah Chorus was sung. Friday's audience followed what has become a tradition but needed no urging to follow his lead in tribute to Friday's performance which has established new levels for choral music here.

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