

Entertainment

Bands wanted for Battle

Campbellville will be alive with sounds of local bands battling it out in a sonic competition for the first time—all part of Campbellville's first-ever Battle of the Bands competition on Saturday, June 11.

The event will be held 2-5:30 p.m. at Mohawk Inn. There is no admission fee to watch the event but there is an application fee for bands.

Non-professional bands from across the north Halton area are eligible to apply for a spot in the contest. From all applications received, six bands will be chosen (by an independent team of music industry personnel from outside the area) to take part in the battle.

Each band will play a 15-minute set of songs of their choice. Bands will be judged on a variety of criteria, including style, musical ability, song selection and, of course, fan reaction!

A panel of three judges will evalu-

ate each band and make a decision on the top three bands, which will be announced at the end of the show. Judges so far include local country artist Alysha Brooke and Brian Hewson, owner of Escarpment Sound Recording Studio.

Three prizes include a demo package from Escarpment Sound Studio, which includes up to six hours of studio time; a \$200 gift certificate, courtesy of The Guitar Shop, 357 Main St. E., in Milton; and 10 t-shirts silk screened with your band's name or logo, courtesy of Under G Round Silk Screening, 781 Main St. E., in Milton.

Deadline for bands to get their entries in for evaluation is May 21 (if hand delivered) or postmarked by May 14 if mailed. Entries must include a video of the band playing or a CD or cassette. Complete information and the official rules and application forms are available on-line at www.cedartrail-music.com

Globe's *Oklahoma!* is a good night of theatre

The wind was sweepin' down the plain, the wavin' wheat was smellin' sweet and the corn was as high as an elephant's eye as Georgetown Globe Productions opened *Oklahoma!* Thursday night at John Elliott Theatre.

The plot of *Oklahoma!* is simple, revolving mainly around Laurey Williams deciding who she'll let take her to the box social—the decent Curly McLain or the downright sinister Jud Fry.

The musical opens with a bright wide open set that gives an airy impression of staring across the plains of Oklahoma, and the opening number, *Oh what a beautiful morning* sets the mood for the production.

Cory Doran is brilliant as Curly, the decent cowboy who yearns to have Laurey at his side. Doran's voice projects quite well and his performance and use of facial expression are assets to the production.

Molly Santé plays Laurey and her voice is spectacular, as she and Doran balance each other out as lead characters. She too has good stage presence adding to the show.

Brenda Van Esch gives an appealing performance as the wise and knowing Aunt Eller, and she gives an ample supply of humour with her character.

Lisa Tass is the fickle-minded Ado Annie Carnes who has a big problem making up her mind which man she wants in her life at any given minute.

Playing opposite Tass is Pat Tunney as the

bronco bustin' Will Parker. Tunney's character is a great match, and his footwork during some of the dance numbers adds more to the effect.

Kevin Lake plays conniving peddler Ali Hakim, who has a weakness for the ladies. Lake's performance is quite effective but suffers from a bit of over-acting at times, which could well be remedied by opening night fine-tuning.

The sinister Jud Fry is played by Matt Willis. Although Willis may not possess the most projecting singing voice, he was truly ominous in his part—he really looked dangerous and deranged, adding great effect to the musical.

Based on *Green Grow the Lilacs*, a stage play by Lynn Riggs, *Oklahoma!* was the first of nine musicals that composer Richard Rodgers and lyricist Oscar Hammerstein collaborated on. The music of *Oklahoma!* is familiar to most as favorites like *Surrey with the Fringe on Top*, and *People Will Say We're in Love* were well received.

And the rousing version of the title song *Oklahoma!* was probably resonating in the ears of everyone long after they left the theatre.

Lighting was well executed and costumes were effective, but the gunshot sound effects needed a bit of work.

For any Rodgers and Hammerstein fan, the production as a whole is well worth a night at the theatre.

Oklahoma! continues its run this week (Wednesday to Saturday).

—By Ted Brown, staff writer

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Singing with Friends

One of the world's great baritones Russell Braun (second from left) of Glen Williams, and his wife pianist Carolyn Maule (far left), recently presented a benefit concert, *An Evening with Russell Braun, Carolyn Maule and Friends* at their church, St. John's United in Georgetown. Braun enraptured the packed house with folk songs, sacred music and spirituals, the latter backed by the 35-voice St. John's choir under Maule's direction. Also performing at Braun's invitation were soprano Meredith Hall of Leipzig, Germany, and Toronto tenor Oliver Dawson. Proceeds support a major renovation of the St. John's Glen Williams church building and community projects.

Photo by Janet Duval

Spring Festival's finale on Saturday

Georgetown Bach Chorale's final concert of its Spring Festival series is on Saturday, May 7, 8 p.m. at St. John's United Church.

The choir will be joined by guest soloist Abigail Wong and a baroque chamber orchestra. The concert opens with the famous coronation anthem by Handel, *Zadok the Priest* and sings the *Kyrie* from Bach's mass in F major.

The orchestra will perform *Spring* from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* and Bach's *Concerto for Two Violins in D minor*, two utterly delightful pieces for strings, featuring violinists Karole

Gostynski and Phoebe Tsang.

In the second half of the program the Chorale will complete the *Resurrection* portion of Handel's *Messiah*. This final section includes the uplifting soprano aria *I Know My Redeemer Liveth* and the ringing aria for bass voice *The Trumpet Shall Sound*, which is accompanied, of course, by an exciting solo for trumpet.

Tickets may be purchased at Foodstuffs, 89 Main St. S., 905-877-6569 and The Freckled Lion, 56 Main St. S., 905-873-1213 or by calling 905-877-8321. For more information go to www.georgetownbachchorale.com.

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