Milton Music Festival kicks off this Monday

Halton's largest music festival is coming to Milton.

More than 1000 musicians will compete in the adjudicated Milton Music Festival, which will kick-off Monday and continue until May 12.

When it's over, about 50 students will have received $2,000 and $3,000-scholarships.

The scholarships have been donated by area businesses, organizations and individuals.

The festival is presented by the Milton Music Teachers' Association and began in 1980 as a one-day annual event for piano students.

Now running once every two years, the event stretches close to two weeks and includes voice, strings and woodwind classes, along with piano.

They're adjudicated by a team of six musical experts who have made their own mark either as composers, examiners or professors.

"Our adjudicators are very, very respected," said festival coordinator Jan Carson.

Students range in age from 6 years to their mid-forties.

Residents are encouraged to look in on the classes, which take place at Hugh Foster Hall (beside Town Hall) and Knox Presbyterian Church on Main Street from Monday to Friday.

Piano classes commence the following week, at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre on Childs Drive.

Programs can be picked up in the lobby of any of those facilities, so residents can choose what they may want to listen in on.

And the senior students are a treat to hear, said Ms Carson.

"For the seniors, it's like watching a free concert," she said. "These kids are good."

The festival culminates in an afternoon Grand Concert Sunday, May 14 at Knox Presbyterian Church. Everyone is invited to attend.

Though the Milton event is the biggest in Halton, a new festival was conceived in Burlington last year.

And the demand is such that Ms Carson believes it will also prosper.

"They started one for the very first time," she said. "I expect it to grow."

Maritime Pub Night soon

The Milton Choristers will hold a concert at the Gambrel Barn at Country Heritage Park on Saturday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m.

This year's Maritime Pub Night is expected to repeat the roaring, sold-out success of last year's British Isle Pub Night.

Organizers of the event promise this finale concert will make for an exhilarating evening of down east favourites.

The Choristers will also welcome several dancers from the Jacqueline Smith Highland Dance Studio. The evening will feature a sing-along with a live band. Snack foods will be served and a cash bar will be available.

The Choristers are encouraged and excited about the community's response to its 31st season, which has seen the group perform before ever-growing audiences.

Everyone is encouraged to partake in the toe-tapping evening. Adult tickets cost $15. Tickets for senior citizens cost $13 and children aged under 12 years get in free, but require a children's ticket.

Tickets are available at Peggy's at Milton Mall, Delacourt's on Main Street or by calling Robin at 876-3307. Some will also be available at the door.

Punk rock is far from dead, say members of Milton's Simpleton

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it seriously. Then we jammed for a little while and one of our friends said he would play bass for us. That's when we really started."

The local punk scene from Milton to Burlington to Hamilton has been regarded as dead by some.

But according to Mr. Kennaley, that statement couldn't be further from the truth.

"I don't think it's dead at all. I think it's growing right now, and will continue to grow."

Punk making comeback

These days, starting a band in a garage or furnished basement isn't as extreme an idea as it was in the past.

More and more bands are coming out and the punk scene in Southern Ontario is continuing to catch on.

Punk bands are making up the slack where young alternative bands somewhat faded away.

Bands need support

The key to survival in the Canadian music industry these days, and especially for young bands starting, out is support, Mr. Kennaley said.

"With the abundance of the local talent right now, I think kids really need to go to more shows to support the bands.

"For kids at our age, it takes a lot of courage to go up on stage in front of your peers and the whole thing can be very intimidating."

Simpleton's CD is expected to be released in stores at the end of August.

> **"You think of the odds and you look at the actual chances. I just want to be together with the band, hopefully be signed to a decent label, and just do what we love to do."**
>
> **KEVIN KENNALEY**

The group has been regarded as a tight-sounding pop-punk band as well as one of the finest punk bands to come out of Ontario.

"Where do I see Simpleton in five years? Not in jail," joked Mr. Kennaley.

"You think of the odds and you look at the actual chances. I just want to be together with the band, hopefully be signed to a decent label, and just do what we love to do."

Featured at festival

Simpleton received the honour of being one of the bands featured in this year's Sound of Music Festival, scheduled to be held June 17 in Burlington.

FUTURE SHOP

CORRECTION NOTICE

In our April 2 - May 2 flyer, the following error occurred:

- The Frigidaire Deluxe Smooth Top Range advertised on page 17 for $779.99 was misprinted as having an "Upswept cooktop with expandable element". This product DOES have an upswept cooktop, but DOES NOT have an expandable element.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers.

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