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# Arts & Entertainment



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Melissa Kotack will sell her microwavable slippers at the One of a Kind Christmas Show in Toronto.

## Microwavable slippers a toasty creation by university student

By FANNIE SUNSHINE

*The Champion*

Sometimes the best inventions come from the heart.

After trying to find a way to make life bearable for her mother, who suffers from a neuromuscular disorder that leaves her with freezing cold feet, Melissa Kotack invented a special kind of slipper — the microwavable type.

"I have a neuromuscular disease that leave me with freezing cold feet," explained Pat Kotack, Melissa's mother. "I couldn't find slippers that kept my feet warm and I just can't put on regular socks and slippers. So Melissa said she would design a pair of slippers that would help me."

The bootie style, polar fleece slippers are

made with whole oat grain — perfect for conducting and retaining heat, she said.

So for those who need a kick-start of warmth for their feet, these slippers will help, Ms Kotack said.

"Body heat and the grain feed off each other," she explained. "The heat will last a couple of hours before you would need to re-heat the slippers."

She said her slippers have been popular among people suffering from diabetes, arthritis, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis, or for people with chronically cold feet.

"It's been going well so far," she said. "I've sold about 800 to 900 pairs."

Ms Kotack recommended wearing a thin pair of socks with the slippers, in case the slippers are too warm for the bare foot.

For the past year, Ms Kotack, a university student, has been selling her therapeutic slippers at various craft shows at a cost of \$39.99. The slippers can also be ordered from her Web site, [www.cosysoles.com](http://www.cosysoles.com), for \$49.99.

"It takes me about one hour to make a pair," she said, adding slippers come in small, medium and large and in burgundy, hunter green and beige colours.

"We get a lot of mothers writing to the Web site who tell us their children's feet are so cold they turn purple and the slippers have really made a difference."

Ms Kotack will feature her slippers at the 27th annual One of a Kind Christmas Show at the National Trade Centre, Exhibition Place in Toronto. The show will take place November 22 to December 2.

## Choristers to open season November 24

The Milton Choristers is gearing up for another season of music as the singing group announces concert dates for its 33rd year.

The season opener — Britten's Ceremony of Carols — will take place November 24 at St. Paul's United Church at 7:30 p.m.

Special guests harpist Julia Seeger and soloist Marianne Bodrug will join the Choristers on stage for the works of

Britten.

Admission to the event costs \$12 for adults, \$6 for children aged 6 years and under, and \$10 for seniors and students.

Tickets are available at the Postal Zone at Milton Mall, Delacourt's on Main Street and by calling (905) 876-2401 or (905) 698-0646.

The second performance of the year, titled 'Requiem for Easter', will return to St. Paul's United Church March 24 at 3

p.m.

Joining the Choristers on stage to perform John Rutter's Requiem and other Holy Week selections will be a guest soprano and a small orchestra.

Closing the season will be Standards and Gems: Gershwin, Berlin, Porter and more. The June 1 event will take over the Gambrel Barn at Country Heritage Park at 7:30 p.m. with songs from some of the 20th century's most loved composers.

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