

Arts & Entertainment

New community children's choir starting up



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Youngsters, from left, Emma Hughes, Anne Allore and Jen Allore get ready to audition for the new Adoramus Children's Choir lead by Sonja van de Hoef.

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

To Sonja van de Hoef and Heather Fleming, there's no sweeter sound than that of children's voices blending together in harmony.

Thanks to the efforts of these two women and other supporters, that will soon be heard more readily around Milton with the start of the Adoramus Children's Choir.

"I'm really excited about seeing the church (Knox Presbyterian) and the community come together," said Ms van de Hoef, the choir's founder/director.

The choir, for children and youth aged 6 to 17, is not a church choir, but a community children's choir. The fact that children aren't obligated to participate in or sing in services regularly at Knox church is one of the things that separates it from a church choir, said Ms van de Hoef.

Sacred music will comprise part of the repertoire, but not all of it.

Mary Light will be the choir's accompanist.

Something else that differentiates the ensemble from a typical church choir is what Ms van de Hoef calls "a high standard of musicianship."

"When people think of a choir associated with a church, they think it's not on par with other choirs. But we strive for high music ability," she said.

Auditions will be held September 8 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Knox church, 123 Main St. E. This is to give Ms van de Hoef and Ms Fleming an idea of what level the kids are at and to give the children and teens a chance to ask questions, Ms van de Hoef said.

No musical experience is necessary to join, she stressed.

The choir will be split into two age groups. Kids aged six to eight will be under

the direction of Ms Fleming in the Angelus Choir, while those aged 9 to 17 will be led by Ms van de Hoef in the Gloriana Choir.

The younger choir will practice Mondays from 6 to 6:45 p.m., while the other will run Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. Both will meet at Knox church.

For parents who have more than one child in the choir, it may be a welcome relief that there's just one drop-off day. And when the younger child is picked up, both parent and child are welcome to watch the Gloriana choir finish their rehearsal, Ms van de Hoef said.

Something else that makes the choir unique is the integration of movement, signing and percussion. Ms van de Hoef said not only do kids love it, it also helps them learn quicker.

The percussion helps the kids learn the song's rhythm, and the signing helps them memorize the words.

One of the purposes of the new choir is to give children a chance to receive quality vocal instruction no matter what their household income.

Ms van de Hoef said the Adoramus choir will not only give participants an opportunity to sing, but also to learn some theory like reading music, and even receive one-on-one vocal training from Ms Fleming.

The cost of the choir is \$70 per term for each child. Families with more than two children in the choir are offered a special rate.

"This is a unique choir, in that Knox Presbyterian Church supports it, which will help to keep the membership fees down," said Ms van de Hoef, adding excitedly that it also means there don't need to be fundraisers.


"I'm really excited to see Knox reach out to the community in this way. It cuts the cost (of the choir) in half."

The choirs will perform two concerts for the community — one during the Christmas season and one next spring.

Ms Fleming said she enjoys watching kids "come out of their shells and blossom" in youth choirs. "They think they can't sing, then they improve and have more confidence."

To book an audition time, e-mail Ms van de Hoef at sonjaconducts@hotmail.com or call the church at (905) 878-6066.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.



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Visit our events calendar for full details of this year's performances.

Mon. Sept 2, 6-8pm	JACQUELINE SMITH SCHOOL OF DANCE
Tue. Sept 3, 6-8pm	Registration for Fall Highland Dance Classes Milton Mall, 2nd floor. 905-693-8391, jshighland@cogeco.ca
Fri. Sept 5, 7:30pm	MILTON PLAYERS Members' & Sponsors' Reception Hugh Foster Hall, Milton RSVP by Sept 2, 905-854-4028
Sat. Sept 20, 7:30pm	FR. MARK CURTIS & BAND, CONCERT You Bend My Heart! St. Paul's United Church, 123 Main St., Milton 905-878-8895 or Jack at 905-878-6807
Fri. Sept 26, 8:00pm	MILTON CONCERT PRESENTATIONS Brandenburgs & More (Toronto Philharmonia) St. Paul's United Church, 123 Main St. Milton 905-878-4732.
Sat. Sept 27, 6:00pm	HALTON MUSEUM FOUNDATION Hearthside Dinner and Music Featuring Dennis Gomo & Croona Tuna Halton Region Museum off Tremain Rd S of 401. Reserved tickets: 905-975-2200 ext. 0.
Mon. Sept 29	CAROLYN SKELLY Creative Journal classes start 905-875-2788 creativejournalcs@yahoo.com
Sat. Oct 4, 10am Sun. Oct 5, 10am	THE FINE ARTS SOCIETY OF MILTON Milton Area Studio Tour See map for locations, 905-876-2837.

Arts Milton gratefully acknowledges the support of the Town of Milton Community Fund.






Swim for Safety.

A swimming pool is the place to be in the summer. Just remember that it's a place to be safe as well. Follow these tips and everyone will enjoy a long, safe summer in the pool.

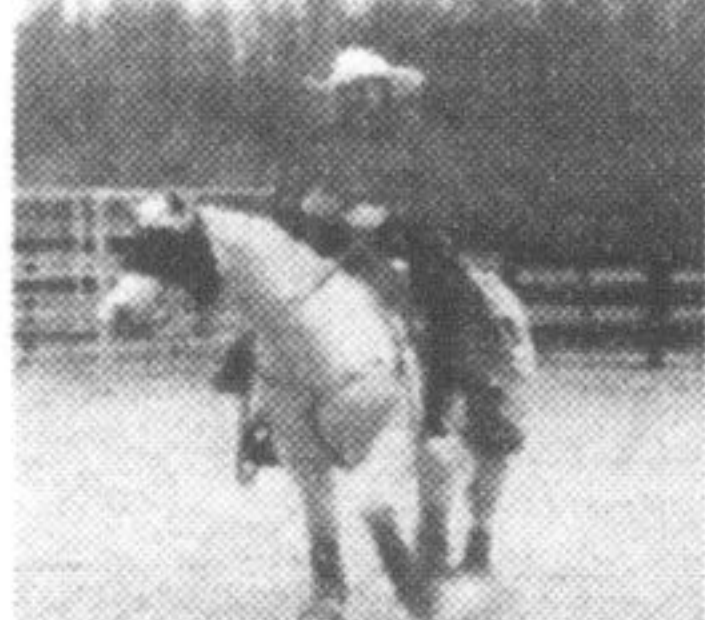



- Never leave children unattended in or around the pool.
- Install a fence with a locking gate around your pool.
- Post and enforce rules such as "no running" and "no pushing."
- Learn CPR.

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

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Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2003
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905-854-9800 for more information

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