

# Arts & Entertainment



## Works of art

Gail Inglis strolls down the aisles of the Fine Art Society of Milton's recent show, 'From Heart to Hand' at the Milton Sports Centre. Here, she looks at the watercolour works of artist June Gerum.

Photo by  
GRAHAM PAINE

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## Stratton to lead course exploring classical music

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**  
*The Champion*

Maestro Kerry Stratton thinks Miltonians deserve the best. After all, they do make up his favourite crowd to perform for.

So when it came time to offer a series of music appreciation seminars, he decided to leave his CDs at home and instead bring with him real performers — a string quartet, a woodwind quintet, a soprano singer... to name a few.

"Live music — that's the difference between my course and somewhere else where they spin a CD," said Mr. Stratton.

Beginning March 30, Mr. Stratton will bring 'A Little Night Music' — a guided tour of classical music — to St. Paul's United Church, 123 Main St. E.

The program will include six weekly sessions from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. — each exploring a different aspect of classical music — plus a dress rehearsal for the Toronto Philharmonia, of which Mr. Stratton is conductor and music director. The course costs \$149.

It's designed to give participants a deeper appreciation of music.

"The more you know about the art form, the more you can enjoy it. We wouldn't take someone to a baseball game without telling them the rules of the game. But we do that with concerts," Mr. Stratton said. "You've got to know the rules and objectives."



Maestro Kerry Stratton is no stranger to Milton. In fact, the conductor and music director says the town is his favourite place to perform.

Each of the sessions will feature informal discussions, giving participants a chance to ask whatever

questions are on their minds.

"It's a chat format for the first hour," Mr. Stratton said, adding the bigger picture that will be explored throughout the course is 'What makes music work?'

The second hour will feature live performances by musicians.

The first evening will explore mood and melody in classical music. There to illustrate the theme will be a brass ensemble. The second evening will feature the Madawaska String Quartet, which will demonstrate music's ability to speak to the human condition, Mr. Stratton explained.

Also there to perform will be the Toronto Philharmonia woodwind quintet, a baritone, a soprano and a harpist — 21 musicians in total. "Most of the music that's consumed is second or third-hand," Mr. Stratton said.

"No matter how much someone spends on a stereo, it's not (the same as) live."

Most of the performers are members of the Toronto Philharmonia. Mr. Stratton said he chooses musicians he knows enjoy teaching people about music.

The Toronto Philharmonia dress rehearsal at the Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts will be a highlight of the course, Mr. Stratton said.

Mr. Stratton is no newcomer to Milton. He performs several times each year with the Toronto Philharmonia at St. Paul's United Church as part of Milton Concert Presentations' concert series.

It doesn't take long to unleash his

• see **COURSE** on page 15

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