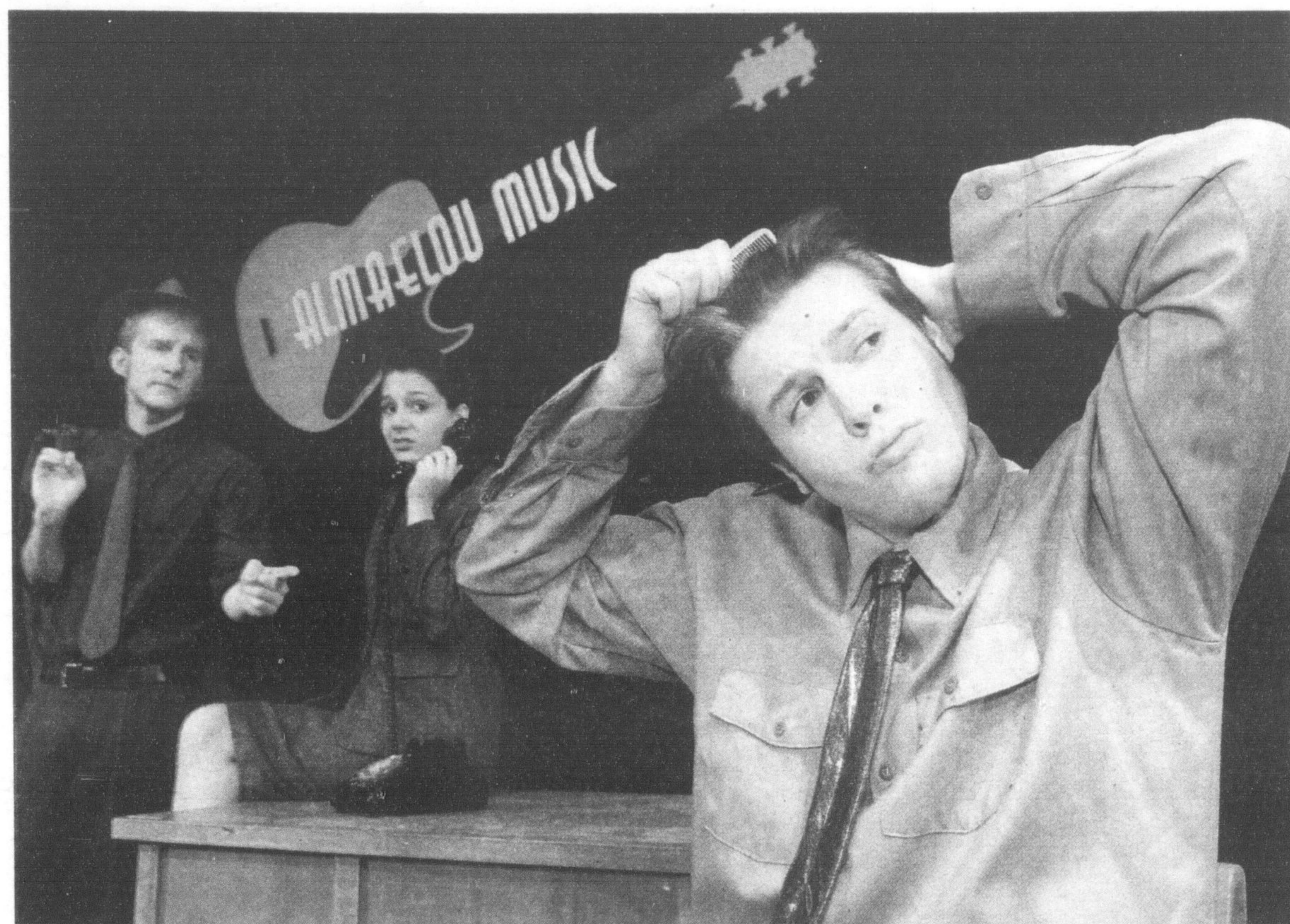


# ARTS



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

**NICE 'DO:** Matt Carson (playing Conrad Birdie) slicks his hair back as Nathan Hicks and Annie Shantz (portraying Albert Peterson and Rose Alvarez) look on during a dress rehearsal of Milton District High School's 'Bye Bye Birdie.' Performances are set for next Thursday to Saturday (May 22 to 24), in the school's auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door and cost \$12 for adults and \$10 for students.

## Youth orchestra presents 'musical journey'

Before it leaves for a tour of Europe, a local orchestra will put on its final concert of the season.

The Halton Youth Symphony Orchestra (HYSO) will showcase its efforts with 'A Musical Journey,' which will take place Monday, May 26 at the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts.

The concert will start at 7:30 p.m., with a silent auction at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets cost \$22 each.

The program will include many of the pieces the musicians will perform in Europe, including Johann Strauss's Emperor Waltz, Bizet's Farandole from L'Arlesienne, Suite No. 2, John Beckwith's Music for Dancing/Round Dance and Gliere's Russian Sailor's Dance.

Tickets are available at [www.oc4pa.ca](http://www.oc4pa.ca) or by calling the box office at (905) 815-2021.

The HYSO is one of two orchestras that make up the Halton Youth Symphony, and is made up of mostly high school-aged musicians.

The orchestra will leave for its 10-day performance tour July 9, and will play in Salzburg, Vienna and Prague.

On one of its stops, the group will represent Canada at the Youth and Music Festival in Vienna.

The tour has been in the works for the past year and will be the first major trip abroad in the 33-year history of the organization.

"The musicians have been preparing themselves for the trip of a lifetime," said Halton Youth Symphony president Colleen Bryan. "The excitement is growing and preparations are all falling into place very nicely."

Meanwhile, the Halton Youth Symphony is inviting musicians to audition for its 2008/09 season.

It draws talented young musicians from communities including Milton, Burlington and Mississauga.

Auditions will begin next month and are scheduled by appointment.

For more information, visit [www.haltonyouthsymphony.com](http://www.haltonyouthsymphony.com) or call (905) 616-2760.

## Europe calling for Serene Republic

*Milton band excited about the opportunity to broaden its fanbase*

By Stephanie Hounsell  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The European invasion of home-grown band The Most Serene Republic (TMSR) is now underway.

On Wednesday the group began its first headlining tour

through Europe, with concerts scheduled for Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom over two-and-a-half weeks.

The group is promoting its sophomore studio album, *Population*, which was released last September.

"We actually get to see if we have any fans in Europe," said guitarist and Milton resident Nick Greaves.

That certainly appears to be the case given the fact one of the concerts is already sold out.

Excitement is certainly the overriding emotion when it comes to this tour, Greaves said.

But the seven-member band has been together long enough to know the tour will be more than a little exhausting.

"It takes a lot out of you," Greaves said, adding he already knows he'll spend most of the days catching up on sleep in their tour van. "I'm used to it."

TMSR — which is signed to the Arts and Crafts label, home to such artists as Broken Social Scene, Stars and Feist — has spent the past six months or so touring and is also in pre-production



NORMAN WONG / SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

**SHOWING THEIR SHARPER SIDE:** The Most Serene Republic — including (front row, from left) Adrian Jewett, Ryan Lenssen and Emma Ditchburn, and (back row, from left) Sean Woolven, Tony Nesbitt-Larking, Nick Greaves and Simon Lukasevich — will introduce European crowds to its CD, *Population*, this spring.

• see INTERNET on page B2

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