

Milton Concert Band to stage Christmas concert

Christmas music has a way of magically transforming our spirits and evoking wonderful memories. "It's an extremely powerful thing," said Angela Rozario, president of the Milton Concert Band (MCB).

With that in mind, the MCB will present its second annual Christmas concert Saturday, Dec. 13 at 8 p.m. at St. Paul's United Church, 123 Main St. E.

The band is inviting residents to take a break from the holiday rush

and create musical memories with family and friends.

"When we hear something like 'O Holy Night,' we might think of sitting by the fire on Christmas Eve or coming out of church services on Christmas morning. We don't think of trudging through slush and crowded shopping malls," Rozario said. "The right music can set a tone for an evening or create a theme for the season."

MCB musical director Joseph Resendes has put together a program that combines well-loved seasonal favourites with moving clas-

sical and contemporary pieces.

"Our goal is to transport our audience to a place where the hustle of the holidays is replaced by the emotion that this time of year is supposed to inspire," Resendes said.

The band will revise last year's popular audience sing-along, and some of the members will showcase their talents as part of the Milton Flute Ensemble.

Since February of 2007, MCB has grown to include more than 40 members and has performed in a variety of settings, from seniors'

centres and community events to its free outdoor summer series and concerts at St. Paul's.

Christmas concert tickets cost \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors in advance, and \$14 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors at the door. Kids under 12 years old are free.

Tickets are available by calling (905) 693-9886 or e-mailing tickets@miltonconcertband.com.

For more information on the band or its upcoming concerts, call (416) 508-6106 or e-mail info@miltonconcertband.com.

Choristers to perform classic Handel's Messiah

A much-loved holiday choral classic will be presented tomorrow.

The Milton Choristers will perform Handel's Messiah at 7:30 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church, 170 Main St. E.

The concert opens the Choristers' 40th anniversary season, and as part of the celebrations, former artistic director and founder Judy Hunter will conduct the famous Hallelujah Chorus.

Tickets cost \$20 each for adults, \$15 for students and seniors and \$50 for a family.

Messiah is an oratorio by George Frideric Handel based on a libretto by Charles Jennens. Composed in 1741 in just 24 days, Messiah is Handel's most famous creation and is among the most popular works in western choral literature.

The work is a presentation of Jesus's life and its significance according to Christian doctrine.

Although the work was conceived and first performed for secular theatre during lent, it has become common practice since Handel's death to perform Messiah during advent, the preparatory period of the Christmas season, rather than in lent or at Easter.

The Choristers' restaurant partnership continues with Troy's Diner, offering special discounts exclusively for Milton Choristers' concert patrons. Full details are available on the Choristers' website by selecting "sponsorship."

Concert tickets are available at McCuaig Insurance, Milton Photo, Troy's Diner, on-line at www.miltonchoristers.com or by calling (905) 878-1632.

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