

Choristers release recording marking end of an era

The Canadian Champion, Friday, October 12, 1990

By NORMAN NELSON

Thanks to a just-released professional recording, fans won't have to wait for December's season opener to hear the soaring harmonies of the Milton Choristers.

Taped at Milton's Holy Rosary Church in June, the recording — called *Makin' Music* — marks the end of an era for the group. It was the last work prior to the departure of Brainerd Blyden-Taylor, who served as musical director for the past eight years.

Under his direction, the group

progressed from basically a cast of talented showtune singers to one equally adept at handling Handel's *Messiah* or Haydn's *Lord Nelson*.

"He encouraged us to tackle more difficult pieces," explained Karen Davidson, a choir member who also handles the public relations chores.

Recorded in sanctuary

The recording was meant to not only serve as a "fitting momento" for Mr. Blyden-Taylor's tenure, but to also take advantage of his "considerable experience in recording."

Although it was recorded in a sanctuary, the group wisely decided to stress the lighter side, making it extremely accessible.

It covers some Canadian compositions and some old English classics but attention is focused on an area obviously much loved by the outgoing director, Negro spirituals, including *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen* and *Give Me Jesus*.

The original allotment of one day to record the session proved a little too ambitious.

"He's much more exacting than

that," said Ms Davidson, chuckling.

She said it was an exciting experience. "There's a lot of pressure in performing for a recording. You have to be very, very focused."

"There's a tremendous feeling of closeness and camaraderie with the other members that makes you want to do the best job possible."

With the exciting project behind them and the summer break at an end, the Choristers are again tuning up their voices at weekly practices, preparing for December's annual Christmas programs.

"We're well into *Silent Night* and *Joy to the World* and a few other interesting selections," she said.

Guiding them is Dr. Patricia Phillips who, like her predecessor, sports an impressive resume, including a degree from Carnegie-Mellon University and a doctorate in Musical Arts from Yale University.

She's currently music director for the Metropolitan United Church in Toronto, director of the Metropolitan Festival Choir and an accompanist with the Guelph Chamber Choir.

Walks of life

With the Choristers, she finds herself at the helm of a diverse collection of about 50 local vocalists ranging in age from young adults to senior citizens.

They come from all walks of life — from farmers and journalists to lawyers and doctors. And their musical accomplishments range from talented beginners to accomplished musicians.

Ms Davidson, for one, confessed she hadn't sung seriously since high school before joining the Choristers. Tackling some of the more difficult classical selections, she said modestly, "was quite a stretch for me."

"Coming back as an adult in my thirties, I find it really provides a good counterbalance to my career."

Ms Davidson is a journalist for a national agriculture magazine based in Milton.

Practices are held every Tuesday night from 7:30-10 p.m. and new members are always welcome to audition. The group is particularly looking for bass and tenor vocalists.

In addition to the season's main performances, the Choristers are also active in the community, performing at Halton Centennial Manor, Milton District Hospital and Canada Day celebrations at Rotary Park.

For tapes, phone Ms Davidson at 878-8133. For those interested in joining the Choristers, phone membership director Shirley Dills at 878-6061.

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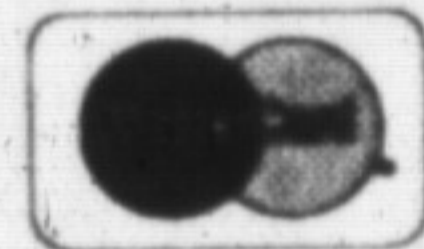
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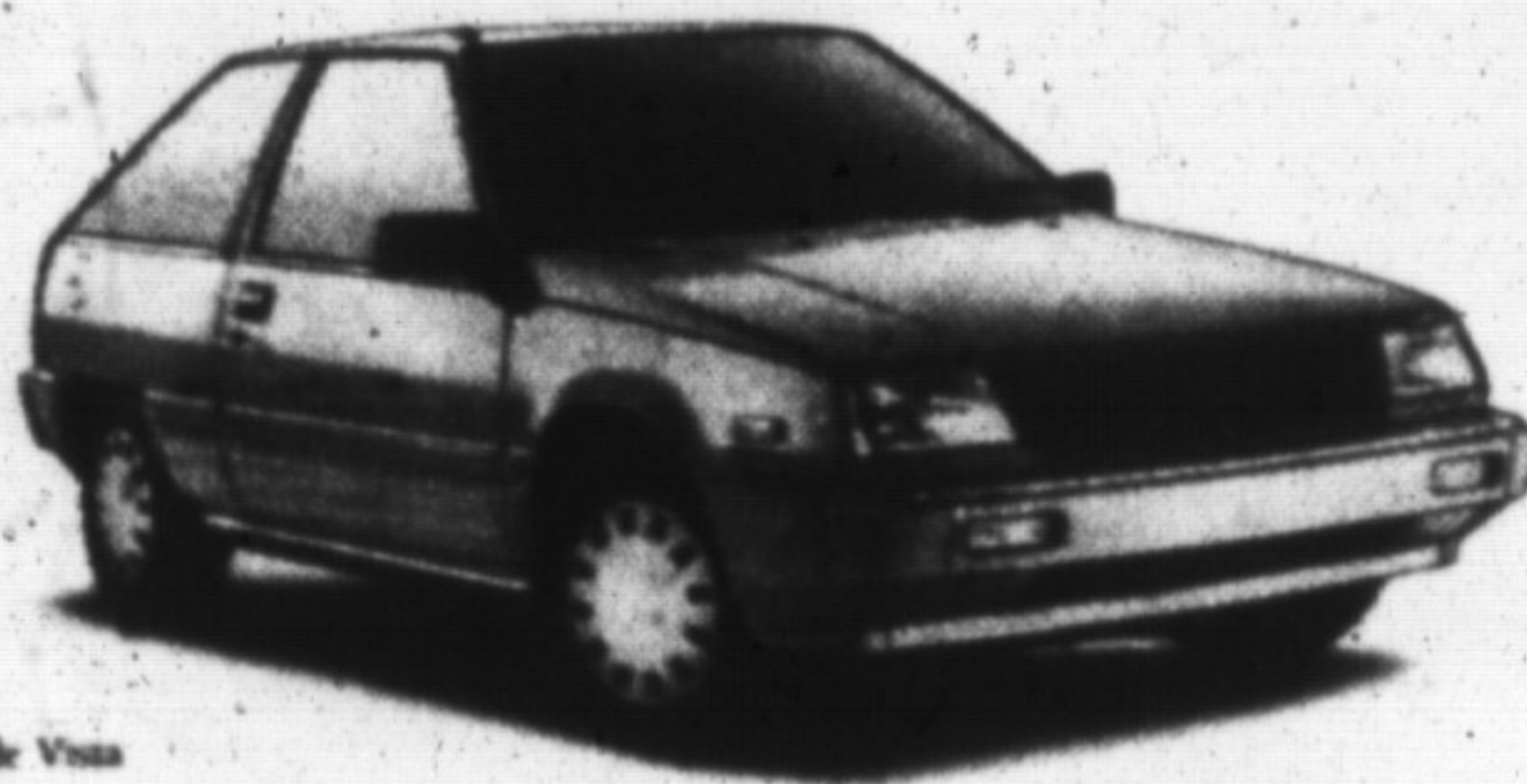
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What's your wife style?

Did you know that there are more than 500 variations of the Cinderella story? *Princess Furbull* is one of those. It is beautifully illustrated by Anita Loebel and the tale is retold by Charlotte Huck.

When I first saw the title, I thought it was the story of a long-haired cat. Not so. *Princess Furbull* is instead a beautiful princess (aren't they all gorgeous?) who wears a coat made of 1,000 furs. She flees her father, who wishes to give her hand in marriage to a nasty ogre.

She is captured by hunters and delivered to a young king's castle, where she toils in the kitchen as a servant to the servants. Because the young princess's old nurse has taught her to be strong, capable and clever, she doesn't remain a victim for long, and in fact succeeds in winning the heart of the king.

These two may live happily ever after, but author Glynnis Walker knows there are pitfalls awaiting marriage. As a flexible relationship, marriage has to meet the different needs of different women.

Wifetypes offers you advice on how to discover your personal wifetype. This guide provides the how-to's for balancing work and family life, handling emotional and economic independence, dealing with competition in two-career marriages, coping with child and elder care, getting your husband to help with housework, and keeping romance alive.

The wifetypes of the Women of Deh Koh may not parallel our North American experience. These are women who live in a mountain village in Iran. Ertha Friedl has visited and studied the society of this village for more than 20 years. It's the everyday life of these women that Ms. Friedl records in her 12 stories.

