

Sharon, Lois and Bram, the best in their field

Trio coming to town, Aug. 20

Sharon, Lois and Bram will be coming to Midland for two performances at Centennial Arena, Aug. 20.

The 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. shows should pack 'em in and for every good reason.

Simply put, Sharon, Lois and Bram are the best musicians now recording for children on the face of this earth.

SHARON HAMPSON

When children write Sharon, Lois & Bram fan letters they always draw Sharon smiling from ear to ear. With all her infectious swinging vitality and her mischievous fun, she sings with a tender, emotional directness that touches every heart.

She has been surrounded by music all her life, coming from a close-knit musical family whose concerns were socially-conscious and compassionate. She grew up to the songs of Paul Robeson and Pete Seeger and other politically active artists, and much of her sense of commitment to music and the possibilities of understanding between people reflects those early influences.

As a child she studied piano and cello, but she made her professional debut as a folksinger in a Toronto coffee house when she was just 17. She was sitting in the audience with some friends when someone announced her, stuck a guitar in her lap and said 'Sing!'. 'What else could I do, there was no turning back.' And she's been singing ever since. Her pure melodic voice

was perfectly suited to the folk material she loved and had grown up with. She toured the folk clubs and festivals of North America, did some television in Los Angeles, and sang at Gerdes Folk City in New York, the Riverboat and the Bohemian Embassy in Toronto.

She settled down in Toronto with her husband Joe, a singer, songwriter, and member of The Travellers, and while raising two children, she appeared at the Mariposa Folk Festival, performed for Mariposa in the Schools and taught in the Music for Children program. She was the coordinator and host of the Harbourfront Children's Program, as well as coordinator of the Children's Area for the Mariposa Folk Festival. She sang frequently on radio and television, for CBC and CTV, and recorded two albums: 'Songs for Children and Other People' (a collection of French folk songs), and 'Down in Hickory Hollow'.

Being part of Sharon, Lois & Bram is now more than a full-time career, but Sharon still finds time, as do her colleagues, to participate in classroom workshops for Mariposa in the Schools. Her home is filled with music all day long; Joe plays bass and a bit of everything else, her daughter plays french horn and piano, her son bassoon and piano, and Sharon is now trying her hand at the tambourine. And when she and her

family and friends gather for a party, they invariably end up singing.

It is often said that children respond most fully to honesty and sincerity; it is no wonder that Sharon is a favourite with the children. They all seem to know that her smile is just as big as her heart.

LOIS LILIENSTEIN

Lois Lilienstein made a less-than-spectacular debut in show business at the age of five, when at an amateur talent show she nervously stepped on stage, looked over the audience and calmly announced, 'I be back when I be six.' She has since overcome her stagefright and now—singing, dancing, fooling around, 'the one who never sits still'—she is 'a dynamic performer' whose natural exuberance and sense of fun put audiences immediately at their ease.

Lois was introduced to music—mostly pop, jazz, big band and Broadway musicals—while a babe in arms by her father, who sold insurance by day and played piano at weddings and bar mitzvahs by night. By the age of five, accompanied by her dad, she was singing all the pop songs of the day, and soon after was playing them on the piano. Then her mother enrolled her at a school for tap dancing. Lois would learn and her mother would watch and pick up the steps. They became 'The Goldberg Sisters' and together provided a total entertainment package at family

gatherings.

An accomplished classical and jazz pianist, Lois graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Michigan. When she came to Toronto in 1966 with her husband, a professor of sociology, she fell inadvertently into a career as a child's performer. She began working with children as a volunteer mother at her son's nursery school, delving into folk music and introducing the children to singing, creative movement and musical games. In 1970 she established the only pre-school music program in Toronto, Music for Children, for the North York Public Libraries; the program is still going strong after eleven years. She also gave concerts at the St. Lawrence Centre, Harbourfront, the Mariposa Folk Festival, and was a popular performer for the Mariposa in the Schools program. She organized the first Children's Area for the Folk Festival, and it became a model for other festivals in Canada and the U.S. As a music educator she was highly respected, and gave seminars and workshops on children and music for various Boards of Education, the Ontario Ministry of Education and local community colleges.

Through her long-standing fascination with children's street play, she has become an avid collector of playground games and rhymes, many of which appear on Sharon, Lois

& Bram's records.

Despite her abundant energy and joie de vivre, Lois insists that she yearns for the quiet life. 'I love what I do, but my idea of heaven is to retire to a wooded glen—I'd be quite happy sewing and cooking (her recipe for brownies has acquired a fame all its own), reading, stretching out before the fire, and all that.' Few believe her.

BRAM MORRISON

Bram Morrison, ex-school teacher, professional folk singer and modern-day pied piper, left University to go on the road with the noted folklorist and singer, the late Alan Mills.

As guitar accompanist and apprentice to Alan Mills for four years, Bram travelled across the U.S. and Canada, building his own extensive repertoire in English and French Canadian folksong. Between tours he was active in the Toronto folk music scene, singing frequently on television and at the Mariposa Folk Festival. His first performing

experience, however, was as an actor during his high school and university days, and many of the qualities that give special distinction to his musical performance today are part of the actor in him—his comic timing, his nicely-judged sense of the burlesque, his narrative skill, and above all his masterful gift for mimicry. His ear is well-nigh faultless—he slips effortlessly into any accent, any musical genre—a versatile, expressive entertainer with an actor's talent for musical disguise.

Through his association with Alan Mills, Bram became interested in working with and performing for children. He entered Teachers' College and taught in the Toronto school system for the next seven years, five of them as an itinerant music teacher. As a folksinger he worked with Mariposa in the Schools and Prologue to the Performing Arts, doing hundreds of concerts and workshops in Ontario schools. His work with children,

teachers in the field and teachers-in-training was known and immensely respected all over the Province.

His easy rapport with children and tongue-in-cheek sense of humour lead one to suspect there is quite a bit of the mischievous child left in him. There is also an inordinate curiosity about all manner of unusual subjects. It is not uncommon to find him sitting on the floor surrounded by open dictionaries avidly tracing the origins of words. The philosophy of science also holds a special interest for him: 'I read Einstein to relax; to me it's a kind of poetry.'

Bram's family, like Sharon's, is thoroughly musical. His wife Ruth credits with enlarging his knowledge of early pop music, Broadway show tunes and classical music. And he points with justifiable pride to his granddaughter Lindsay, already an inveterate concert-goer, who mastered at the age of 18 months Three Little Monkeys, finger play perfect.

Firefighters responded to three calls

Midland firefighters have responded to three calls since last Friday. At 9:44 p.m., Friday,

smoke-eaters quelled a grease fire in a kitchen at the Queen's Hotel on King Street.

On Saturday, firefighters answered a call to HDH. That one turned out to be a false

alarm. And Saturday night, firefighters answered a call to the scene of an accident at Hugel and Highway 93.

The brigade's extrication equipment called for wasn't required in that the person snagged inside the wreckage of one of the cars was freed before responding firefighters arrived on the scene.

Costly collision on Hwy. 69

An estimated \$10,500 damage was tabulated following a two-car crash, Saturday at 1:30 p.m., on Highway 69 near Port Severn's two bridges, Midland OPP accident reports show. Cars driven by Roy

Irwing of Barrie and Joyce Raymer of Agincourt were involved in the costly crash after both vehicles, southbound at the time, were involved in a rear-ender.

A passenger in the Raymer car, Sylvia Webb of Scarborough, was rushed by ambulance to HDH suffering injuries she received in the mishap. Raymer has since been charged with following too closely,

Play it safe this summer. Parents should check children's play areas to ensure there are no trenches, dugouts, dangerous storm sewers or open wells. Children are fascinated by water, but a child can drown in about 10 cm (4").

Backyard pools—even shallow wading pools—must be supervised when children are at play. Remember, a child can drown in about 10 cm or 3"-4" of water, so play it safe and be extra cautious this summer. The Canadian Red Cross Society has information for you on some simple precautions to take around the pool.

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