

York Philharmonic choir in free concerts



Brenda Luka
..... choir soloist

RICHMOND HILL — Rossini's "At the Foot of the Cross," will be presented by York Philharmonic Choir in April, in the first two of what are planned as a series of free concerts throughout the region.

The first, an afternoon concert will be performed in the 600-seat chapel of St. Joseph's Morrow Park Convent in Willowdale, Sunday, April 3 at 3 o'clock.

The second, an evening concert, will be held in Richmond Hill United Church, Centre and Yonge Sts., April 8 and 8 o'clock.

Choir director Edward Luka will conduct both concerts, which will be accompanied by organist Derrick Lewis of Kleinburg.

Also featured at both events will be such leading soloists as soprano Brenda Luka, Richmond Hill;

contralto Joanne Leatch, tenor Roger Jones, and bass Geoffrey Rison, all of Toronto.

Mrs. Luka, wife of the conductor, is a recent winner of the \$1,000 Toronto Medelsohn Choir Foundation scholarship.

Mr. Luka said the free concerts were planned "for the purpose of exposing the people of our region to a wealth of music compositions that are not possible to be performed by small choirs, and are being subsidized by individuals, small businesses and corporations."

He said the York Philharmonic Choir was the only cultural organization in York to receive grants from Canada Council and Ontario Arts Council, plus the Region of York and Town of Richmond Hill, "for their excellence in performance."

RICHMOND HILL — Plans are being made to "combine forces" with the York Symphony, Edward Luka, director of the York Philharmonic Orchestra, said this week.

The union would strengthen both choir and orchestra, he said. At present, there was "too big a deficit" with the YPO.

Mr. Luka would continue to conduct the choir.

Clifford Poole is the present conductor of the YSO.

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