

# Arts & Entertainment

## Latcham

### Famous People benefit was big hit

KATE GILDERDALE  
Correspondent

It was an exciting and at times scary project, but the volunteers at the Latcham Gallery pulled it off.

The gallery's presentation of Famous People Players at

Markham Theatre last weekend was an unqualified success, filling 95 per cent of the seats Friday night and 71 per cent Saturday afternoon.

"That's really high for a matinee," said organizer Lynda Giles. "I think it's the highest they've had at the theatre."

Giles said that it was definitely worth the effort, although there were some anxious moments for everyone involved. "I was asked if I would do it again, and my answer was, ask me six months from now."

While she was delighted with the number of people who

attended, Giles cautioned that the gallery did not expect to make a large amount of money from the event.

"We did make money, but without corporate sponsorships, the high costs involved take away a lot of the profit," she noted. A major benefit for the

gallery, however, was increased public awareness generated by the show.

Maintaining the gallery at its present level is going to be an uphill battle, conceded Giles, but one that she and many others believe is essential for our community's cultural future.

### Residents can ring in New Year at two local events

Ring in the New Year in your own community and walk or take a cab home if you're drinking.

The Stouffville Legion and the Goodwood Lions Club are each hosting New Year's Eve celebrations Dec. 31.

The hall on Ninth Line North is the venue for the legion's gala, which begins at 9 p.m.

Tickets are \$40 a couple or \$25 each and include hot and cold buffet.

Guests can dance to the music of a disc

jockey and a cash bar will be open during the evening. For more information call 640-1714.

Goodwood Community Centre will open its doors to revellers at 8 p.m. for the Lions Club's New Year's Eve Dance.

The evening will feature the music of Smak Dabb and the ticket price of \$75 a couple or \$37.50 a single includes all you can eat and drink.

For tickets and information call Frank Campbell at 640-7049.



Photo: LORI EMMERSON

### Choirs sing

School concerts are as much a part of Christmas as mistletoe and holly. Above, left, students at the Mother Goose Pre-school entertain at Stouffville Pentecostal Church. At right, students from the Stouffville Christian School perform at the Maples of Ballantrae.

## In Review

### Christmas YSO concert left audience singing

MARY JEAN OLIVER  
Correspondent

On the first weekend in December, the York Symphony Orchestra traditionally performs its holiday concerts at Mary Lake Shrine in King and at the Markham Theatre. These are special events celebrating the season, and in King, in a special setting.

Alexa Wing, a native of Sarnia, opened the concert with the very demanding Mozart Exsultate Jubilate. She sang with lovely ease, a delightful opener.

Alexa has quite a list of credentials for so young a singer, including studying at the Royal Conservatory in Toronto, in New York, and singing with the Elmer Iseler Singers. At present she is pursuing a solo career.

The Orchestra continued the programme with a cheerful reading of Haydn's "Surprise" Symphony, the first movement played with life and energy, the second with proper subtlety, leading up to the "surprise."

One of the highlights of this celebratory concert was In-

Dulci Jubilo for double brass choir, (the chorale tune, Good Christian Men, Rejoice). Antiphonal playing, the brass instruments divided, separated, responding to each other brilliantly and wonderful in the setting of the Shrine.

Alexa returned to sing Gesu Bambino.

She could have kept right on singing. Her breath control, the beauty of the long phrases, the sensitivity of the interpretation, left us weak. It was sublime - marred only somewhat by the difficulty of bal-

ance with the orchestra.

But the Cantabile Chorale of York Region was waiting in the wings with Rutter's Shepherd's Pipe Carol and Star Carol. Rutter is well respected in current musical circles, particularly in his beautiful church music compositions and arrangements, with unexpected rhythms and harmonies.

The choir also sang several excerpts from the Messiah.

For Unto Us A Boy Is Born was excellent.

The Cantabile Chorale is directed by Robert Richard-

son, is an award winning group, and has toured across Canada and to Holland and England. Robert Richardson is an organist with Oriole-York Mills United Church and a music consultant for the York Region Board of Education.

This Christmas concert always includes a Singalong, which was sadly foreshortened by the length of the programme.

However, the audience left with carols ringing in their heads to return in the very unseasonal weather outside.