

arts & entertainment

Music

Music a life-long love for Untermann

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"There was always music in my life."
Claremont resident Gabrielle Untermann grew up in a family where singing and playing music were as natural as breathing. And it was her appreciation and love of the music of her childhood that eventually led her to perform with Toronto's renowned Tafelmusik.
The season before last she auditioned successfully for the Uxbridge Chamber Choir, a move which she said has enriched her life

and enabled her to meet other like-minded and fascinating people in the community.
"I come from a musical family - my parents sang in a little madrigal group. One of my earliest memories is of being allowed to stay up and sing songs with them, then I would go to bed and listen to them singing downstairs."

Born in England

Born and brought up in England, she recalls "singing madrigals while we did the dishes together. The piano was right there, there were four of us, and music was simply part of

our everyday life."
She left England for Canada, but after 10 years she decided to go back. Fate intervened, however, in the guise of her husband, Gerd.

Met at Toronto Island

"He's from Germany and we met at Toronto Island," explained Untermann.
Six years ago, the couple moved into the Claremont area and they now have a son, Edward, who will soon be four.
While Untermann thoroughly enjoyed the three and a half years she spent with Tafelmusik, it became difficult to continue once she had moved out of the city.

"I didn't drive to begin with and Gerd was working right downtown," she said.
"I would go in first thing with him and hang around in Toronto and then he would hang around after work, waiting for me."

When she was six months pregnant with Edward, she decided to call it quits.

"The connection with Uxbridge Chamber Choir came about through (fellow member) Helen Morley," explained Untermann.

"I knew her from soon after I came out here through the Early Music Centre."
Morley had been suggesting for some time that Untermann should audition for the choir, "but there was no question of doing it while I was at Tafelmusik and while Edward was a baby."

Returned to music

By the time her son was two, however, Untermann felt she was ready to take on a new challenge.
"It's been great - I really enjoy it," she said.
"I love the variety of music - at our first concert there was something from the 13th Century and something from the 20th Century."
And after working with a highly specialized ensemble like Tafelmusik, the more relaxed atmosphere of the Uxbridge Chamber Choir was a breath of fresh air, she added.
"I've been continually impressed with the choir, and socially it's so friendly. Because (director) Tom (Baker) is of the calibre he is, I am kept on my toes, which is really good for me."

Untermann teaches piano and currently has about 16 students.

Uxbridge Chamber Choir performs tonight
Tonight, she will be among the members of Uxbridge Chamber Choir, both past and present, who will be performing at the group's 10th Anniversary Concert at St. Andrew-Chalmers Presbyterian Church.

The program includes Frostiana - Seven Folk Songs by Randall Thompson; Welsh Folk Songs by Gustav Holst and music by Healey Willan and R. Murray Schafer.

The concert starts at 8 p.m. and tickets, which can be purchased at the door, are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors and students.

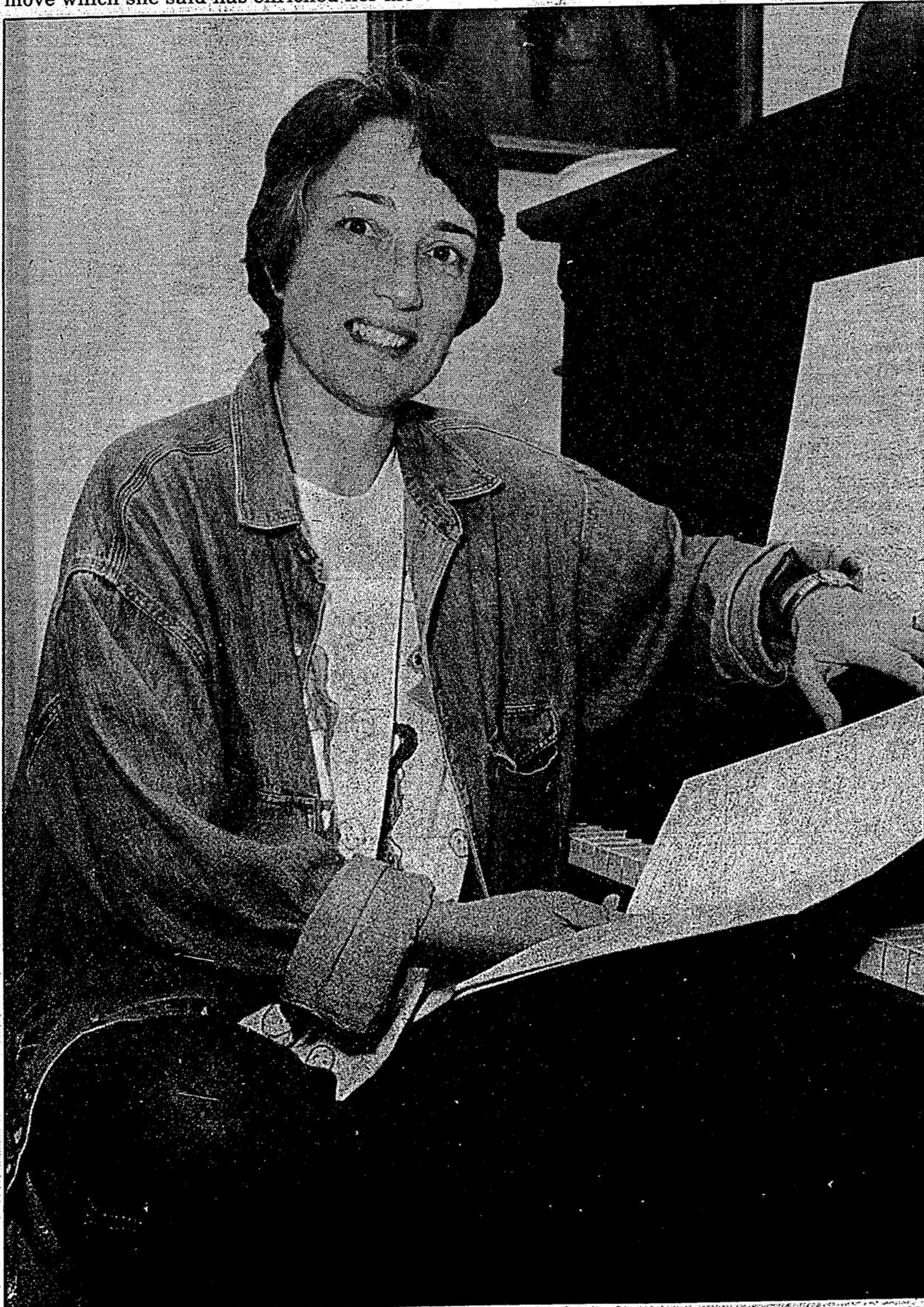


Photo: CELIA BRONKHORST

Claremont's Gabrielle Untermann is an enthusiastic member of the Uxbridge Chamber Choir. A former member of the renowned Tafelmusik in Toronto, her love of singing and fine music has been rekindled by her involvement with the Uxbridge group. Tonight, the Uxbridge Chamber Choir performs at St. Andrew-Chalmers Presbyterian Church.