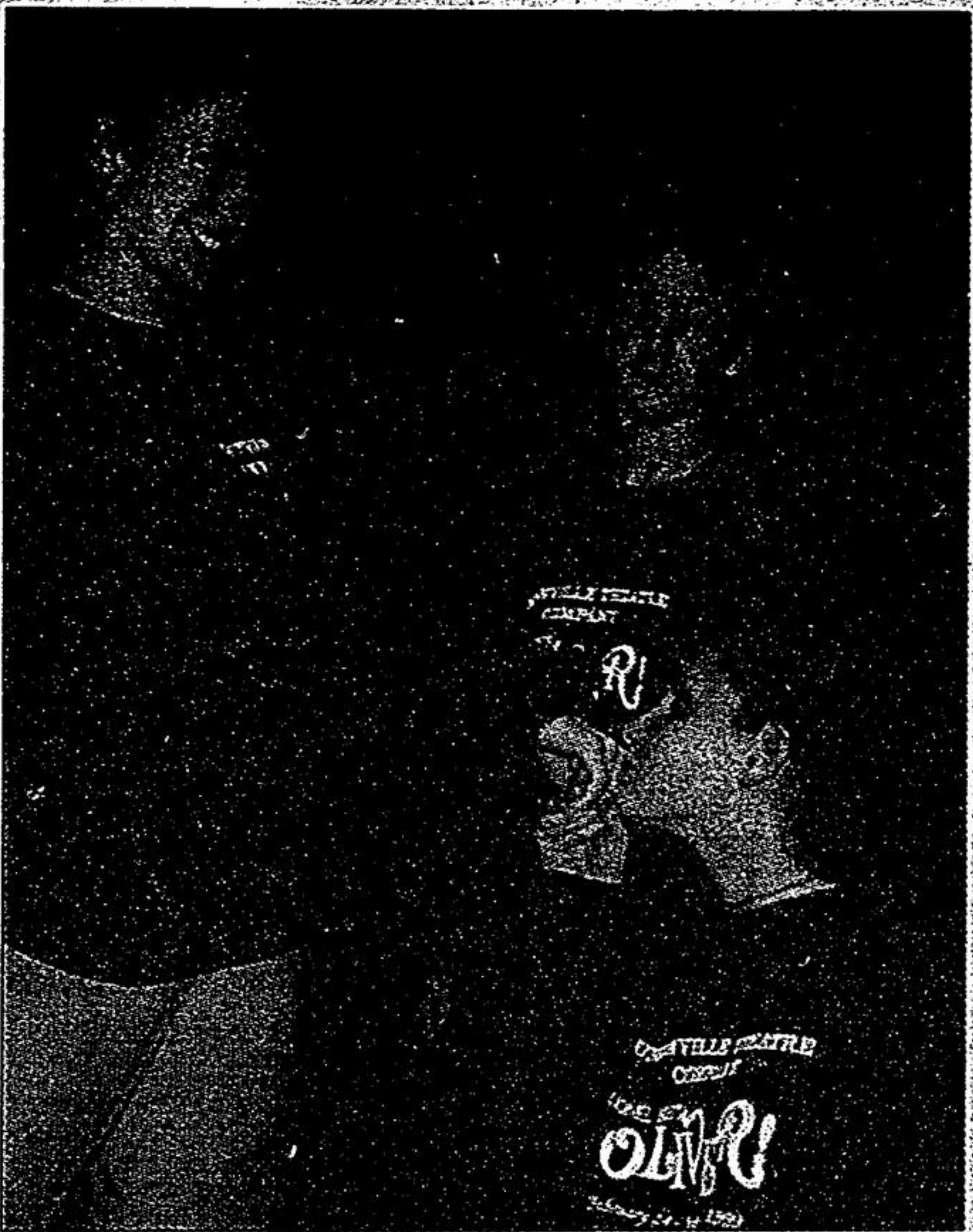


ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Oliver (Spencer MacEachern) watches Nancy (Kyla Dixon) get a kiss from the Artful Dodger (Jen Polansky).

# Consider yourself invited

*Oliver takes the stage Feb. 24 to 27*

NOREEN O'LEARY  
CORRESPONDENT

Unionville Theatre Company is gearing up for its production of *Oliver*.

More than 50 people ranging from 10 to 25 years old are involved in the story of *Oliver*, a young orphan alone on the streets of London, England in the 1850s. *Oliver* is taken in by Fagan, where he learns the ins and outs of pick-pocketing. Through his adventures, the boy eventually finds where he belongs in life.

The performance includes many musical numbers and promises to be very entertaining.

"It's definitely geared towards the whole family," said UTC vice-president Colleen Cugini.

Unionville's Spencer MacEachern stars as Oliver, Markham's Anthony Malarky as Fagan, and Kyla Dixon as Nancy. *Oliver* is directed and choreographed by Meghan Bowness, and produced by Celeste Pelliccione.

*Oliver* runs Feb. 24 to 27 at Markham Theatre. Performances are at 8 p.m. with a Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$12 for students and seniors, and are available by calling 305-7469.

Anyone interested in acting or working behind the scenes in a future production can leave a message at (416) 812-6848.

# Youth choir makes debut

NOREEN O'LEARY  
CORRESPONDENT

Markham's Philharmonia Youth Choir is getting ready for a major performance this month.

The choir, featuring children up to 12 years old from throughout York Region, is set to play The Ford Centre for Performing Arts Feb. 27 at 8 p.m.

Under the direction of Joy Norton-Smyth, the choir will perform a varied selection, including foreign language songs. Tickets are \$15 and are available through the Ford Centre box office.

The Markham Philharmonia Society will also be performing at Markham Theatre March 5 at 7:30 p.m.

The Philharmonia Orchestra will be joined by the Philharmonia Choral and Singers in a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, conducted by Christopher Cotton. A number of solo acts have been confirmed, including soprano vocalist Susanne Compass, alto Laura Pudwell, and tenor Geoff Butler.

The Youth Choir will open the show.



PHOTO/LORI EMMERSON

Joy Norton-Smyth leads members of the Markham Philharmonia Youth Choir in a rehearsal for its Feb. 27 performance at the Ford Centre for the Performing Arts in North York. The choir will also open a March 5 show of the entire philharmonia society at Markham Theatre.

# Women in Jazz series swings into St. Andrew's



St. Andrew's Women in Jazz series continues with guest performances by vocalist Alex Pangman, left, and swing pianist Tyler Yarema.

Alex Pangman and her Alleycats will stroll into Markham to headline a night dedicated to women in jazz.

As one of Canada's leading classic jazz vocalists, Pangman has performed with renowned musician Jeff Healey as well as with major jazz bands such as the Hot Five Jazzmakers, Tyler Yarema and his Rhythm and the Climax Jazz Band.

Pangman concentrates in music made famous during the 1920s, '30s and '40s. She just finished recording her first CD, set for release this spring.

The Alleycats are comprised of Yarema, Mike Carson on bass, Jesse Barksdale on guitar and Mark Mariesh on drums.

St. Andrew's United Church on Main Street, Markham is hosting the evening, the latest in a series of fundraising concerts. And just in case Healey drops by to sit in with Pangman, as he is known to do, an extra chair will be reserved on stage.

Tickets are \$15 adults, \$12 seniors and students, and available at the church office (294-0351), at Musicians' Marketplace and Village Smoke Shop in Markham, or Back Beat Records in Toronto.

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