

FRIDAY JANUARY 27, 2006 • 7:30 PM
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 175 Anderson Avenue, Markham
 Special Guest - Michael Lewis
 Lewis Biographer

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STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Longtime guitarist Bob Vopni is joining other local musicians at the Great Hall of Christ Church Feb. 4 to raise funds for community radio station WhistleRadio.

Musicians raise doh, ray, me for WhistleRadio

Guitarist Bob Vopni to play at concert

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

Stouffville's best musicians are using their instruments, talents and voices to help raise money for Stouffville's fledgling radio station, WhistleRadio.

They're part of the Stars of Stouffville concert in the Great Hall of Christ Church Anglican Feb. 4 starting at 8 p.m.

You'll see performers such as veteran singer/songwriter and guitarist Bob Vopni.

The local resident has pursued a love affair with music ever since he was a 13-year-old at the beginning of the 1960s "British Invasion".

His musical inspirations came from groups such as The Rolling Stones, Yardbirds, Animals and Dave Clark Five.

Other influences include jazz and blues-rock artists such as Robben Ford.

Although he had been in bands all through high school when his family returned to Toronto from the United States, he began playing guitar on his own.

That's when he started to experiment with a finger style of playing, rather than using a pick.

In his early 20s, he studied music and jazz guitar at Humber College under teacher Peter Harris. At 33, Mr. Vopni decided to go back to school to learn more from Mr. Harris.

Mr. Vopni now describes himself as an "all-round musician".

His musical curiosity has led him to learn to play conga drums, with which he

accompanied several musicians at the August Music in the Park concert in downtown Stouffville.

After thinking long and hard, he's realized the life of a full-time musician isn't for him.

He's been teaching guitar for a number of years and is writing a music book which he'll probably call *Chord to Chord 11*.

After teaching guitar at Seneca College from 1973 to 1993, he wrote his first book, *Chord to Chord*, to help with his teaching.

The idea behind the books is to get people playing once they've learned basic chords.

"I started becoming more of a teacher," he said. "Now I am becoming more of an all-round musician."

He's starting to record his music and hopes to have CDs out in the near future. Mr. Vopni is also developing a website.

Mr. Vopni describes himself as a all-round jazz and classical guitarist and is working on starting a finger-picking guitar society in Stouffville.

Also on the Stars of Stouffville program are Carly MacLean (accompanied by Jim McMillan and Paul Greco of We Rock), Cris Cuddy, Grainne Ryan, Kim Brown and Corey Richardson, Justin Kerswill, Poor Tom, The Marion Drexler Band and Tom Pullin.

Tickets for the Stars of Stouffville are \$15 per person and are available by e-mailing jim@whistle radio.com or from The Rock N Roll Shop, The Main Course, Bartha's Jewellers, Card's Hardware and Boyd's Sports.

Christ Church Anglican is at 254 Sunset Blvd in Stouffville.

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