

Stouffville Sun-Tribune  
**ARTS**

# Bieber to bee-bop in a cappella show

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
sbolan@yrmg.com

There's no vocoder to smooth out the pitchy notes, nor are there drums or a bass guitar to keep the beat.

Cadence is just four guys creating the sounds of a full band with their vocal chords.

They perform in Civic Square Aug. 15 as part of the Patio Nights at 19 summer series outside the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park.

Toronto-based Cadence specializes in a cappella versions of popular bee-bop songs from the 1950s right through to the pop artists of today including the Justins, Bieber and Timberlake.

"Anything can be done," said Carl Berger, one of the group's founders.

Cadence formed about 15 years ago and gained a following. But a resurgence in swing music, along with the popularity of the television show *Glee* and movie *Pitch Perfect* has brought a cappella music to centre stage.

"We're not trying to compete with that type of music and be that type of group," Mr. Berger said.

"It's so contemporary it's almost hard to keep up," he said.

While some a cappella groups perform original material, Mr. Berger said the genre is really rooted in cover songs, whether they are done as straight imitations or re-arranged to create a whole new version, which is something Cadence does quite often.

"We're trying to embrace the fact that we sound different," Mr. Berger said, noting one of their Justin Bieber songs starts out as a madrigal then morphs into something closer to the original version.

David Clayton Thomas from *Blood, Sweat and Tears* heard Cadence's version of *Spinning*

Wheel and was so impressed, he invited them to sing on his new record.

Other projects they have been a part of include performing the original score on the *Casino Jack* soundtrack with jazz singer Emile-Claire Barlow.

They also appeared on *Come Together: An A Cappella Tribute to the Beatles* (2002) and *Sing 7's Good Love* (2011).

Along with turning their vocal cords into instruments, all four members of the group can also play actual instruments. However, they haven't done so on stage for about 10 years because it's not what their audience wants.

"Sometimes it's not the greatest feeling when there isn't gratification with the audience," Mr. Berger said.

Cadence has released four of its own CDs. Their 2005 release, *Twenty For One*, earned two Juno nominations and won three Contemporary A Cappella Recording awards.

*Frost Free* (2000), was also nominated for a Juno and picked up a number of a cappella music awards.

Cadence won the Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival in 2003.

This month's show will be the first time Cadence performs in Stouffville.

Ashley MacIntosh, acting cultural, facility and programming co-ordinator for Nineteen on the Park heard them perform sometime ago and knew then she wanted to bring them to the arts centre for a show.

"You kind of hang out with four guys having a great time," Ms MacIntosh said, noting some of the songs they cover are "unexpected".

Tickets are \$30 each and available at <http://nineteenonthePark.com>

The event is licensed. Should the weather not co-operate, the show will be moved indoors.



Cadence - Carl Berger (baritone and bass), Ross Lynde (tenor), Lucas Marchand (tenor) and Kurt Sampson (bass) - performs in Civic Square Aug. 15 as part of the Patio Nights at 19 summer series outside the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park.

## 'Travelling Paints' at gallery

Tourism and art come together in the latest show at Stouffville's The Gallery at Imperial Centre.

Susie Colomvakos, Sally Heit and Bess Tsourounis have studied and travelled together.

Their show - *Sistahood of the Travelling Paints* - opens tonight and continues

through Oct 4.

A discussion of their work and their journey begins at 6:30 p.m.

There will be opportunity to chat with the artists afterwards.

A portion of the proceeds from sales will be donated to the Creative Minds and Join In programs in Stouffville.

The Gallery at Imperial Centre was created by local resident John Paulino.

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