

Choir takes first place in CBC Radio competition

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville This Month

Stouffville resident Mylene Freeman, 15, is a member of the Bach Children's Chorus which placed first in the CBC National Radio Competition for Amateur Choirs on April 27.

The April event was the final round of the 15th CBC Radio-Canada National Radio Competition for Amateur Choirs and was broadcast live across the country on CBC and Radio Canada from Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto, Montreal, Moncton and St. John's, Nfld. Mylene, who also takes ballet and piano lessons, joined the choir through a friend in Stouffville.

"I am starting my fifth year next year," she said. "Everyone has to do an audition every year, even if they are already in the choir." Every Christmas, the Bach Children's Chorus performs at the magnificent Cathedral of the Transfiguration in Gormley, and also takes part in an annual concert with the acclaimed Amadeus Choir. In March the chorus was featured in a free noon-hour choir and organ concert at Roy Thomson Hall.



MYLENE FREEMAN

Performing in the CBC competition meant hours of extra rehearsals before the choir took to the airwaves from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Toronto, under the direction of their founder and conductor Linda Beaupré. "On the day we went to record, the church was freezing," said Mylene. "We spent the day going over and over the same songs, trying to get it perfect."

The requirement for the final round was that the choir should sing up to eight minutes of a cappella music in a live broadcast. BCC sang Stephen Hatfield's *La Lluvia*, Eleanor Daley's *O My Dear Heart* and R. Murray Schafer's *Raking Song*. Their efforts were handsomely rewarded, not only with first place honours, but with \$3,000 in prize money.

"I'm bursting with pride for our own choristers for their persistence in working right to the end, to bring the music as close to perfection as they could," noted Ms. Beaupré. "They are phenomenal young musicians, and exceptional young people."

What's Growing at the Latcham Gallery? A magical forest!

by Maura Broadhurst

Come to the Latcham Gallery and see how two artists have transformed it into a magical forest.

Gillian Farnsworth, and Rowena O'Connor make up the artist collective TemperMettle. They have been working together to create art installations for several years, exhibiting in galleries throughout Canada and in New York city, and now they've brought their exhibition, *Engineered*, to Stouffville. Throughout June you can visit the gallery and experience the work first hand.

As soon as you walk through the gallery door you will think you've walked into an alternate landscape. The floor is covered with grass and from it grows large metal trees. Walking among the trees you'll come upon creeping critters, you'll hear twigs

snapping and leaves rustling, you'll smell the grass.

TemperMettle has created a world that in some ways is attractive and familiar, but in which things aren't quite right. Although there is the natural smell of the grass and you hear what sound like natural noises, the animals and trees are not natural but constructed out of metallic and synthetic materials. The juxtaposition of the natural versus the synthetic brings our attention to the dichotomy that exists in contemporary society of desiring nature and wilderness for leisure time, but technology and convenience for daily life.

This special exhibition will continue until July 11. Come in and wander through -- you might find it a wonderful place to escape to during a busy day or an ideal destination for a lazy walk.



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