

Musical Notes

Muskoka Lakes Music Festival

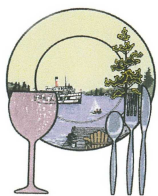
Volume 6

Fall 2006

Kaleidoscope Arts in Education

Created to combat the decline of arts in the education system, Kaleidoscope has had another strong year of hosting events where children can expand their artistic horizons. Foremost among these events was the Kaleidoscope Children's Festival. This annual event was held at Muskoka Beach Grove Public School on June 3rd, and featured a morning of fun and games for children of all ages. The children participated in a variety of hands on activities led by professional artists. Some of these activities included woodblock printing, sculptures, stone carving, sign painting, banner pictures, and music games. In addition to the Children's Festival, Kaleidoscope's Music & Arts Summer Camp took place at the Port Carling Memorial Community Centre, on July 24-28. At this unique day camp, kids were invited to participate in various activities including painting, drawing, arts & crafts, theatre, drama games and music, all led by professional artists in the community. The session was full very early, and the waiting list quickly filled up as well. Instructors included artists Nancy Gray Ogle and Jen Morgan Anderson, actors Steve Johnston and Beth Laing from the Port Carling production of *Charlotte's Web*, and musicians Paul Landry and Anne Fay. Cartooning, drawing, watercolour painting, tie dying, drum making, drama games, improv, singing, drum circles, beading and scrapbooking were all offered throughout the week.

Flavours of Muskoka



Flavours of Muskoka is an annual event, called an "amazing graze, the premier gourmet food and wine event of the Muskoka season." Every year, *Flavours* invites Muskoka's top hotels, restaurants, and chefs to set up a table and offer samples from their menus. In addition, a select group of wineries and breweries are invited to sample their wares. The monies raised have contributed close to \$140,000 which has helped fund a variety of worthwhile charities in our

community. The 2006 event, which took place on Thursday, June 29th at the Port Carling Memorial Community Centre, was again SOLD OUT! Over 350 guests sampled the wares of 20 restaurants, 12 wineries, and 4 breweries. The silent auction was a hit, with rounds of golf, winery tours, original artwork, jewellery, and gift certificates up for grabs.

The evening raised over \$15,000 to support the Muskoka Lakes Music Festival and its Kaleidoscope Arts-in-Education Programs. Thank you to everyone who attended, sponsored, participated in and donated to this year's Flavours, making it our best one yet!

The Festival would like to thank all of the individuals who helped make this year's *Flavours* a success. We would especially like to thank the silent auction donors; we owe the great success of this year's silent auction to you.

Pre-Season Events

The Music Festival was proud to host John McDermott on June 24th at the Port Carling Community Centre. Drawing from his moving new recording *Just Plain Folk*, McDermott, accompanied by four superb musicians, had the audience singing along and standing for ovations.



The ninth of twelve children from a traditional Glasgow Irish family who emigrated from Scotland to Canada in the 1960s, John's musical roots are equal parts Scottish and Irish. His songs showcase his innate understanding and facility with traditional folk melodies as well as more contemporary stylings.

John is passionate about all his philanthropic causes and continues to work publicly and privately to bring aid to veterans' and military organizations. A large part of this commitment is to live up to the responsibility that the Bob Hope Award carries by working with groups such as the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, the War Amps of Canada, the Semper Fidelis Society, the New England Shelter

for Homeless Veterans, and others. We were honoured to have him in Muskoka for this performance and wish him continued success.

The Concert Season

The regular season of the Music Festival began on Monday, July 10th, when the Festival presented Foggy Hogtown Boys. Back for a second year performing a mix of original songs written by members of the band and old bluegrass favourites performed with unparalleled musical virtuosity, this band had a powerful effect on the audience: regardless of their musical affiliations coming into the show, every single member of the audience left the performance as a bluegrass fan.

On Tuesday, July 18th, the Music Festival “cooked” with the seventeen-piece Toronto All-Star Big Band, joined by the voices of The TABB Five. Audiences were willed to their feet by the band’s enthusiastic takes on the swing classics of the ‘30s and ‘40s.

On Thursday, July 20th, the Music Festival welcomed Mimi Blais, the undisputed “Queen of Ragtime”. Hailing from Montreal, Mimi entertained the audience with her remarkable abilities at the piano, while regaling the crowd with the stories behind the songs she was playing.

On Tuesday, July 25th, Port Carling was treated to the Mediterranean sounds of Pavlo and his band. Pavlo’s intoxicating guitar playing combined Greek, Spanish, jazz, flamenco and classical elements, and had the audience cheering with his high energy performance featuring songs from his new album, “*Irresistible*,” as well as numbers from his award winning albums “*Fantasia*” and “*I Feel Love Again*.”

On Thursday, July 27th, the Festival had “passion” in mind when one of our finest violinists took the stage. Moshe Hammer treated everyone to an evening of Mozart, Greig, and Sarasate accompanied by Robert Kortgaard on piano.

On Tuesday, August 1st, the Festival hosted a group which could be called a “Family Tradition” since all of its players are direct descendants of fiddlers and entertainers. For three generations The Beckett Family have been busy entertaining audiences across Ontario.

On Thursday, August 3rd, the Festival presented Melissa Stylianou, one of Toronto’s best Jazz voices. She returned to the festival after 2 years to bring a “warm, open and secure voice for whom ‘style’ is a means not an end.”

On Tuesday, August 8th, the Festival welcomed clarinetist James Campbell and friends from the Zapp String Quartet, with pianist Paul Stewart for a mixed programme of music from Mozart, Bernstein, Gershwin to jazz.

On Wednesday, August 9th, the Festival welcomed back Dr. Alvin and Jennifer Tung, a guitar soloist and soprano respectively. These performers, who were also founding members of the Festival team, played their favourite venue at the Kettle Church on Lake Muskoka under the full moon.

Our Staff



Continuing with the Music Festival this summer was Jen Morgan Anderson. Jen was our Marketing and Development Intern. She has a B.A. in Studio Art from the University of Guelph, and displays her artwork in the Muskoka Place Gallery. This was Jen's fourth season with Muskoka Lakes Music Festival. We were overjoyed to have her on for another season thanks to a grant from the Metcalf Foundation. Sadly, Jen has moved on to

teacher’s college in the fall and will be missed by everyone who knew her here at the Festival.

Our summer student this year was Jeremy Frost. This is Jeremy’s first season with the Music Festival. Jeremy graduated last spring with a B.A. in Religion and is continuing graduate studies with a focus on Myth and Ritual. He will be continuing on with us for the fall and winter, preparing for another exciting summer.

As always, Gayle Dempsey and Gary Froude are managing and coordinating the Festival. Their dedication is what keeps the Festival growing and developing each season.

Letter From the Chair

Dear Patrons and Sponsors of the Muskoka Lakes Music Festival,

Thanks to your terrific support we have completed a very successful 10th season! Your renewed and growing support enables us to maintain the highest caliber of Classical, Jazz and Variety entertainment, and your response this year ensures that we will continue this trend in our highly anticipated 11th season.

The Festival format for 2007 will again offer venues for all tastes in both the variety and genius of the performers invited to participate. Our lineup is sure to provide something for everyone as we once again draw on the finest talent available.

Our Kaleidoscope programme has been expanded in several schools. Early in our season we delighted with our children in a wonderful day of arts, crafts and entertainment enjoyed by all ages. What a wonderful opportunity to provide quality education and arts experiences for our community.

This past summer also included the ever popular “Flavours” evening. Our local chefs satisfied our palates with every imaginable taste. What a memorable night of flavour and fun, complimented wonderfully by our beverage suppliers!

Once again, your support and continued feedback enabled us to provide Muskoka with spectacular entertainment that is enjoyed in ever increasing numbers by you, our patrons and sponsors. You, of course, make it all possible, and for this we thank you and pledge another wonderful season for 2007!

I look forward to seeing you all again next year!

Stephen Burdick, Festival Chair

Thank You For Your Support

Our volunteer Board of Directors deserves our thanks for their time and commitment:

Founding President: Fraser Fell, C.M., Q.C.
Past Chair: Michael Whyte
Chair: Steve Burdick
Vice Chair: Jon Gurr
Treasurer: Jim King
Secretary: Beverlie Robertson
Honorary Director: Marie Mahovich
Directors: Steve Burdick, Jon Gurr, Jim King, Bob McTavish, Beverlie Robertson, David Margesson
Advisor: Stanley Shortt

Managing and Artistic Director: Gary Froude
CAO / Director Festival Development: Gayle Dempsey
Marketing and Development Interns: Jen Morgan
Anderson & Jeremy Frost

In order to keep our ticket prices low, the Festival relies on sponsorships and donations to cover our expenses. Our primary sponsor this year was Touchstone on Lake Muskoka. This season's other festival partners were Baytides Management, Canadian Heritage/Arts, Metcalf Foundation, Muskoka Community Futures Development Corporation, FedNor, Yahama, Yellow Pages, The Delta Sherwood Inn, McLaren Press Graphics, Muskoka Magazine, Muskoka Window & Door Centre, Red

Leaves, Ontario Arts Council, and The Ontario Trillium Foundation.

We would also like to thank our volunteers who generously gave their time to help make this season a success. They are: Sue Gurr, Marian McDonald, Brian McDonald, Nan Allen, Jane Templeton, John Baird, Jo-Anne Baird, Susan Hemming, Peter Hemming, Christine Marshall, Frank Marshall, Verla Thurston, Rod Thurston, Pearl Davidson, Paul Davidson, Sharon Whyte, Gary Whyte, Robin Burns, Diana Trusler, Gail Bentley, Pat Gidley, Mary Mitchell, Ray Mitchell, Marilyn Cambridge, Jake Cambridge, Dick Caldwell, Cecelia Caldwell, Norma Luks, Tom Luks, Greig Foord, Donna Foord, Cathie Dickson, Phil Dickson, Ann Newroth, Barb McGill, Joani Miller, Joan Gibson, Craig Copeland, and all our wonderful Board Members.

Fall Fundraiser

Mayor's Golf Tournament

This year the tournament was held at beautiful Lake Joseph Club on September 18th. The Muskoka Lakes Music Festival is very appreciative to have been selected as the beneficiary of the 2006 Annual Muskoka Lakes Mayor's Golf Classic. Funds raised will help support the Festival's many initiatives, including our annual summer concert series and our Kaleidoscope Arts-in-Education children's program.

We thank Mayor Pryke for recognizing the importance of our cultural programs in Muskoka, and for choosing the Festival as the recipient of the funds raised through this event. The proceeds will help us meet the increasing demand for our arts-in-education programs, and continue to deliver high calibre music performances through our summer concert series. We thank the event sponsors who made this day a great success and a lot of fun for the participants.

Muskoka Children's Choir

Wing Chow, a member of the Festival's Kaleidoscope committee and the director of Kodaly Music Studio, started the Muskoka Children's Choir in 2004. This choir provides singing and stage experience for children aged 6 – 12. Wing relocated to Bracebridge from Calgary, where she was a music consultant for the Calgary Board of Education. She is trained in the Kodaly method of music education, which emphasizes singing skills, music literacy, musicianship, music appreciation and enjoyment.



Joining Wing this year is Anne Fay, a Masters in Music Therapy graduate from Wilfred Laurier University. She brings excellent music composition and performance skills,

as well as over 10 years as a piano, recorder and theory teacher to the program. Welcome Anne!

The Muskoka Children's choir meets every Tuesday evening at Monck Public School's Library. They sing art music from various styles and periods, different folk songs, and musicals. They have performed at a number of events across the Muskoka area. They also won the silver medal in the community choir category under 12 years of age at the Orillia Kiwanis Music Festival this year.

For more information, please call Wing Chow at (705) 646-9791 or e-mail her at wychow@sympatico.ca. Also, please see the choir link on the Music Festival's website for the updated performances: www.artsinmuskoka.com.

2007 Season

2007 Season in Planning Phase

by Bob McTavish, Director of Marketing

With the 2006 season behind us we have commenced planning for next year. The exciting new festival line-up includes such acts as:

Valdy, The Toronto All-Star Big Band, John Arpin, David Francey, Ian Thomas, Fred Egalsmith, Jack Hutton, and more!

2007 "Summer Series" Pass

Prior to announcing the 2007 line-up we are offering a Pre-Christmas Special on the "Summer Series" Pass 10 concerts from late June to early August for \$175 (plus GST) for one pass and \$300 (plus GST) for two, making this a great gift for a spouse, partner, family member or a friend. This same package offer for the "Summer Series" Pass, after Christmas, will be priced at \$225 (plus GST) for one Pass and \$400 (plus GST) for two.

Special Events

The "Summer Series" will be preceded and launched by our Flavours of Muskoka event on June 21, 2007. We are looking forward to another wonderful experience in the culinary arts.

This year we are honoured to have theatrical Artistic director Stevie Jay and Mirador Productions join us for our Kaleidoscope in the Schools children's programs. Stevie brings live theatre into our communities for people of all ages, but specifically school children during our preseason events.

We are also proud to host Six String Nation in our local schools this coming spring. This guitar was created from more than the sixty different Canadian artifacts of historical and cultural significance and will be used as an educational and arts tool in the classroom.

Ticket Agent Network

We are in the planning phase of setting up a "ticket agent" network at various convenience stores, gas bars, retailers, marinas and restaurants. This is a first for the Festival and there will be approximately 15 locations. Each location will post a "Ticket Agent" sign prominently on their premises. Tickets as usual can be purchased by calling the Festival offices (705) 765-1048 or at the box office on the night of the concert when we are not sold out.

Dinner/Concert Combinations

Partnerships with area restaurants to offer Dinner/Concert specials are also being considered. Look for more details early in the New Year on our website and in next year's Brochure and Program.

New Directors Needed

The Muskoka Lakes Music Festival will be in its 11th Season next year. We are always appreciative of volunteers to assist at our events. In particular we would ask for a few of our patrons and community members to step forward to join our Board of Directors. Specifically we would like assistance with those experienced in Corporate Sponsorship (we are looking to have regional and national companies sponsor individual concerts) and in public relations, to extend our ability to acquire significant press coverage locally and provincially, and in organizing a volunteer network for our various projects. Please call Gayle Dempsey or Gary Froude at (705) 765-1048.

Donations

The Muskoka Lakes Music Festival is a charitable non-profit organization. Tax receipts will be issued, and your name will appear in next season's program.

Charitable Business # 88954 2593 RR0001

Muskoka Lakes Music Festival

Box 172

Port Carling, ON P0B 1J0

(705) 765-1048

info@artsinmuskoka.com www.artsinmuskoka.com