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Musical search continues for the York Winds

By Lydia Pawlenko
It was a rare musical homecoming when the York Winds appeared in a music workshop at the Curtis Lecture Hall last week, with Argentine composer and conductor Alcides Lanza. Back from a successful four week tour of the Middle East, York's own musical ensemble-in-residence took a notable switch from their distinct Baroque and Classical fare, to play Lanza's commissioned avant-garde collage of wailing sounds and woodwind intricacies, half-written in his own graphic score, and half improvised.

Interesting. But for those less adventurous souls, not yet ready to be taken off into Lanza's world of "neglected notes," it may be comforting to be reminded that the York Winds like to experiment - it's part of presenting a full range of the vast wind chamber music repertoire.

Formed in 1972, the group has managed to become known as 'Canada's foremost wind quintet' in most Canadian communities with an interest in classical music. The Winds have appeared on such prestigious concert series as The St. Lawrence Centre and Shaw Festival. Their activities have ranged from formal concerts, broadcasts on the CBC, and recordings, to informal workshops and coaching at summer camps.

Canada, characteristically self-conscious; are not likely to view their own artists as being important until they have been internationally acclaimed. With a string of well-received debuts in New York, London, Paris and Brussels, it is no longer necessary for the York Winds to worry about success.

They were artists-in-residence at the university since 1975. This involves appearing in concert series at the university, including informal appearances at the colleges. We also participate in the coaching of chamber ensembles and special events in the music department," explained oboist Lawrence Cherney.

By no means however, have the Winds been seeking sanctuary within the secluded labyrinth of York.

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Ensemble returns from Israeli triumph



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AN UNEXPECTED PLEASURE
MUSIC REVIEW / Yohanan Boehm



The York Winds in Israel

Nicholls of CRESS

By Greg Saville
During a relaxed conversation with gentlemanly R.W. Nicholls, comfortably dressed in a chocolate brown corduroy sport jacket and green tie, it's difficult to view this York professor as a respected member of the Canadian space community and a prominent leading Canadian expert in physics. But after such a conversation it's clear that he is. And, in addition, he's the director of York's Centre for Research in Experimental Space Science (CRESS).

With utmost respect for his colleagues and a unique ability to make advanced physics sound simple, Nicholls is an ideal leader for CRESS.

An Englishman's style to his humour reflects his origin of thirty years ago, but a strong sense of Canadianism (not nationalism) is brandished when he speaks of the history of the Canadian space effort - a history with which he has often been associated and of which he seems proud.



Nicholls: An Englishman's sense of humour and strong Canadianism

Then came the building of the Fort Churchill rocket launching complex in 1957 which Nicholls calls "superb". He has worked with various launches from the Fort Churchill site and was even involved in a near tragic helicopter accident which he shrugs off to experience.

Canadian rocketry soon boomed with the expansion of such companies as Bristol Aerospace Ltd. and he says the Canadian rocketry industry sells Brand rockets to NASA in the U.S. "In fact they're selling more to NASA than they're selling in Canada. It's the NASA market that they're now thriving in."

It was this initial introduction of atmospheric sounding rockets that brought scientists from a number of Canadian universities together in various experiments over the past two decades. Nicholls says there is now a group of about 100 scientists across Canada who constitute the Canadian space community.

Chilean student leader warms up York crowd

By Eric Walberg
Last week, Founders College celebrated Latin America week with films from Cuba, Brazil, the West Indies, lectures, plays, dancing, and music.

As he warmed up to his audience (about 90-100 students); Rojas revealed the oratorical skills that skyrocketed him to such prominence in his homeland. The story of the overthrow of the Allende government is a tragic and depressing one; however, Rojas did not wallow in self pity. Rather, he showed a fire and optimism which captivated his audience, almost one half of which agreed to meet again to plan a York Chile campaign to make contribution to the fight for a democratic Chile.

enemies of Chile - this scenario clearly is based on Hitler's fascism. Chile today, said Rojas, "shows the democracy of the international monopolies." Rojas went on to show how the experience of Chile has relevance for Canadians during a period of cutbacks.

Rojas was impressed by the anti-cutbacks work of Canadian students and the awareness that we have a common enemy. He extended an invitation to York students to form a York student brigado which could come to Chile when the present nightmare is over, to work with Chilean students in their struggle for a better life.

Bordeaux correspondent's report: Ce qui compte, c'est la vitesse

York student and Excalibur artist, Annette Goldsmith, is currently studying in France, at the University of Bordeaux on an exchange program. We hope to be hearing more from her this term.



Annette Goldsmith

Of course not all of the fonctionnaires have un coeur de pierre (heart of stone). When I went to the bus depot to get my student bus card (only one of the endless ID cards necessary for foreign students here), I was served by a slightly harried man of about 35. When I returned a day or two later with Carmela, he immediately came over, shook my hand and gave me his home phone number, in case I needed any information.

No one stops for a mere piéton (pedestrian). The only solution is to run across when the coast is clear, and ignore the lights and crosswalks like everyone else.

Christian, a friend of mine in Paris, explains it this way: There is a continental struggle for supremacy between the pedestrians and the cars. Sometimes the pedestrians win, sometimes they lose.

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