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Thaya Trowhill, left, isn't just fiddling around; Kristine Palmer and Andrea Holmberg, above, didn't let the size of the piano stop them; Kristina Perschbaker, right, found standing easier than sitting.



## 3,800 kids believe in music

By ALANA GRIFFITHS  
Times staff writer

Peel Music Festival organizer Gretta Capps can gauge the success of this year's event by the small number of complaints she received. With 3,852 entries plus hopeful parents and teachers, people are bound to voice a "disappointment with a grade or the running of the festival," she said.

"This year has been an all-around success," said Capps, whose father, W.E. Capps, was the supervisor of music in Peel County schools and founded the festival in 1928. "Besides the few complaints, more students have been sent on to the provincial

finals this year than any other year."

The 10 adjudicators who assign the marks for all performances during the festival can choose outstanding individuals from the various categories and send them to the provincial competition held in Ottawa in June. Competitors must have marks of over 85 per cent to qualify for consideration.

The five students nominated are: Marilyn Anderson of Mississauga for the brass category, Julia Innes of Milton for woodwinds, Kathleen Sutherland of Weston in vocals, Ofra Harnoy of Willowdale for strings and Michael Karswick of Islington for piano. Karswick also won the

Rosebowl and \$100 scholarship for best over-all in senior piano.

"This is my first year in the festival and I thought it was a good experience," said 15-year-old Marilyn Anderson after winning in four brass categories, to earn a \$50 scholarship.

"I'm excited to go on to the finals. When I first played the trumpet I got teased a lot by the boys but I wanted something different and I don't regret taking up the instrument."

In the vocal, piano, strings, guitar, dancing, speech and drama categories, 29 awards of \$50 scholarships and seven \$25 awards were distributed.

## Why you don't carry horses for good luck

Have you ever wondered how many of the popular superstitions originated? I haven't, but some people have. Of course, some people take pleasure in collecting rocks.

For those who are interested, superstitions have been with us for some time. Today, they are mere figures of speech and jokes, taken seriously only by the ignorant, the uneducated, the impoverished and major league baseball players.

But there was a time when superstitions were accepted by every strata of society.

For example, the superstition about carrying horseshoes for good luck originated in 15th Century Germany.

A young farmer was taking a load of sauerkraut to the county fair in Hammelburg when his horse developed a nagging backache. Realizing time was of the essence, the young man loaded both the sauerkraut and the horse on his back and carried them two miles to town, where he easily won the sauerkraut competition.

After that, carrying a horse on one's back became a symbol of good luck and the young men and women of Hammelburg carried horses on their backs at all times. The practice eventually reached Berlin where the Berliners,



**Chris  
Zelkovich**

unaccustomed to carrying livestock, adapted the superstition and carried horseshoes.

The superstition about walking under a ladder bringing bad luck is relatively new. Contrary to popular opinion it did not originate when a man walking under a ladder was hit by a falling can of paint.

In fact, on a Toronto street in 1934, a man named Phil Ossofer walked under a ladder on his way to buy a head of lettuce. While under the ladder he ran into an insurance salesman, who kept him there for 45 minutes until Ossofer bought double indemnity insurance on his cat. Since then, people have avoided walk-

ing under ladders.

The old superstition about a snake in your bed bringing bad luck originated in 14th Century China. It requires no explanation.

Almost everyone has heard the superstition about how breaking a mirror can bring you seven years of bad luck. But how many people know it started in a small Duchy in 12th Century Liechtenstein?

Duke Hans Off had the only mirror in the land and it was the object of amazement among the peasants. One day, while attempting to wrestle with his mirror image, the Duke broke the mirror.

Without it, he was unable to groom himself properly and did not realize that he had mustard on his chin. For the next seven years he was the object of derision in the Duchy as peasants laughed at his appearance.

Finally, seven years to the day after he broke the mirror, the Duke's brother arrived in the Duchy. Upon seeing the Duke, his brother said, "You turkey, there's mustard on your chin."

The Duke was so relieved to discover his misfortune he declared a holiday and had all the peasants put to death. That started another

superstition, which said if you laugh at a Duke he'll chop off your head, but that superstition has faded into obscurity.

For hundreds of years, people have carried rabbit's feet for good luck. But oddly enough, it's a superstition that began because of a misunderstanding.

In the 17th Century, Dutch sailors made a habit of stopping in at a Virginia port. (It was an old port.) The sailors, being a superstitious lot, wore *rabedsfud* around their necks to ward off evil spirits. *Rabedsfud* was a Dutch side dish of noodles and cheese often served with veal.

An enterprising hare rancher, seeing an opportunity to make himself rich, told fellow Virginians that the Dutch believed a rabbit's foot brought good luck.

He made a fortune and the superstition grew so quickly that even the Dutch sailors traded in their *rabedsfud* for rabbit's feet.

The newspaper business has its share of superstitions. The most common one says that a writer who makes jokes about superstitions shall have his stories ruined by typographical errors.

Personally, I don't believe x cwtv & v'dec!