

sweet honey



by Andy Marshall

On October 28, Sister Vision Press presented Sweet Honey In The Rock, an all black female acapella group. Comprised of five vocalists and one interpreter for the deaf, the group left the audience at Convocation Hall awestruck with the versatility of the human voice.

For two and a half hours, Sweet Honey treated the audience to a variety of vocal arrangements and styles, ranging from traditional gospel to African to jazz influenced songs. From the moment they came on stage, costumed in full African dress, the group created an impression that is not easily forgotten.

All the songs started with one vocalist, joined by the others, usually after the first verse. Often, the beginnings were a complex mixing of melodies sung by each voice.

"By the Rivers of Babylon" got the audience rocking with its rhythm and improvisation. The bass voice laid a sweet foundation, which the other voices built on.

"Wade in the Water," a tribute to Harriet Tubman, captivated the audience with its smooth, lush harmonies.

The gourd — a percussive African instrument — was used extensively throughout the performance. This freed the musicians to get into polyrhythms, and very slow songs without losing themselves. It also added fire to some of the more traditional African songs. The West African prayer song for motherhood which opened the second half featured a strictly percussive section that energized the crowd.

Not only does Sweet Honey astound and entertain with their voices, they educate with their subject matter. The group deals with a variety of social issues from a black perspective; apartheid, AIDS, youth, Christianity and love. They also expose the brutality of capitalism. Taking the audience through the process of making a blouse, Sweet Honey shows the repression of people in Third World countries and the polluting of the environment caused in making that blouse. The blouse that, incidentally, we can buy at a 20 per cent discount. They then ask, "Are My Hands Clean?" If

they aren't, then "Give Them to the Struggle."

"The Struggle" permeates their music. "Somewhere There's a Child Crying (for freedom in South Africa)" absolutely invigorated the audience. Bernice Raagon, the founder of the group, was inspirational as lead vocalist, bringing the group along in a gospel call-and-response format. The words are all important, and the audience responded to the message by giving three standing ovations.

While their overall sound is very African, the singers are born black Americans, and they appropriately concluded the evening by going back to the church, recognizing that the early church was the social and political hotbed for blacks. Their last song, "Back to the Old Landmark," was a foot-stomping gospel tune which brought enthusiastic dancing from some members of the audience. The message was, "If you ever get lost, go back to when you knew who you were, and start there."

If you aren't touched by the music, the voices or their presence, you have to be affected by the message.

artscalendar

by Kristy Gordon

York's arts community will be busy the next few weeks, so show your support by coming out to some of these events.

The music dept. presents the CJRT Soloist series, featuring violinist Mark Lupinski and pianist Larissa Kroyt performing works by Beethoven, Respighi and Mozart. It will be recorded by CJRT-FM, and the audience is asked to arrive before 12:30pm on Nov. 15 in DACARY Hall (McLaughlin College). For more info call 736-5181.

On Nov. 16 from 12-1 pm in the Winter's Dining Hall, the York Dance Ensemble launches its New Performance Series featuring choreography by York faculty: Donna Krasnow, Jean-Louis Morin and Holly Small. Dancemaker's Philip Drube will make a guest appearance. Tickets are \$6.50 and include an all-you-can eat buffet lunch. Call 736-5137 for more info.

On Nov. 17 at noon in DACARY Hall, the Student Chamber Ensemble Concert will perform a varied programme. Call 736-5186 for more info.

Cabaret at York is looking for you. If you have talent in theatre, music, dance, film or visual arts then come to the first rehearsal, with a prepared piece, Nov. 17 at 6pm in the Atkinson Studio. The first Cabaret performance is on Dec. 1.

The Georges Vanier Reading Series presents poet Lorna Crozier reading in the Vanier Senior Common Room on Nov. 14 at 5pm. Refreshments are available.

On Nov. 13 from 12-2 pm in Studio I, Fine Arts III there will be a choreographic workshop where students of the dance department will present their work. Observers are welcome.

The York Dance Ensemble has been invited to perform at a conference on Ontario/Quebec relations on Nov. 11 at Glendon College. Conference attendees include prominent politicians, administrators and educators from both provinces.

The Russians are coming! The Hizor Ensemble from Tadzhikistan, USSR will be on campus, guest teaching in the dance and music depts. from Nov. 7-23. The Ensemble, consisting of 12 dancers and musicians, are noted for their performances of traditional

ceremonial, lyrical and comic folk songs and dances. They are featured in the world premier performances of "The Fairies" Nov. 17 and 18 at the Metro Convention Centre where 10 York students will be involved in the performance. On Nov. 20 from 12-2pm in Studio I, Fine Arts III they will host a Dancers Forum — a lecture demonstration of music and dance featuring traditional musical instruments, dances, costumes and textiles. Admission is free and open to all.

On Nov. 16 in the Atkinson Theatre the English Suitcase Theatre Company is coming to Toronto for one night only to perform their smash hits: *Dr. Faustus* (6-7pm) and *Christie in Love* (8-9pm). Tickets are \$5 for one show and \$8 for both. Call 736-5172 for more information.

The Glendon Gallery is showcasing Rose Lindzon's *Etruscans* until Nov. 26. The Gallery is open weekdays from 10-4pm.


Don't miss AGYU's *Selections from the Ann and Marshall Webb Collection*. This private display includes sculpture, paintings and prints by 22 artists. The gallery, located in N145 Ross, is open weekdays from 10-4:30pm.

On Nov. 13 at 12:30pm in the Nat Taylor Cinema (Ross N102), the dept. of film and video is presenting Wolf Donner, a leading West German film critic. Donner, a director of the International Film Festival in Berlin, will discuss "The Financing of German Films".

Theatre Glendon presents *Les Fees Ont Saif* by Denise Boucher. This Quebecois play presents three female stereotypes: a mother, the Virgin Mary and a prostitute all struggling towards an enlightened identity defined by women. The play, presented in French, runs from Nov. 14-18. Call 487-6722 for more info.

From Nov. 13-17 the IDA Gallery will display 3250 ROMAN MILES by Oliver Heinrich, Michael Trommer and David MacFarlane. It explores the size of the earth in an exhibition of paintings and mixed medium work.

If you want 16,000 pairs of eyes reading about your event, please bring your listing to the EXCAL office and drop it into the big manilla envelope on the arts.



Mister transmission
all Canadian

SPECIAL YORK OFFERS

**555 NORTH RIVERMEDE ROAD
CONCORD
738-7999**

FREE
ROAD TEST AND
MULTICHECK INSPECTION

- no purchase necessary

21-point comprehensive drive train inspection

With coupon
Expires November 30, 1989
VALID AT CONCORD ONLY

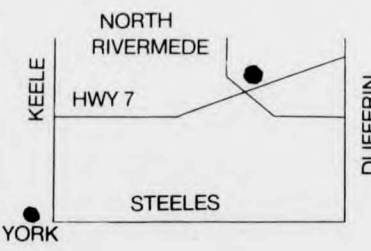
10% OFF
Regularly-Priced
Work

YORK

- Students
- Faculty
- Staff (ID required)

With Coupon
Expires November 30, 1989
VALID AT CONCORD ONLY

- FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE
- LOANER CARS
- FREE TOWING





Crystal Court

FINE CHINESE & SZECHUAN CUISINE
Fully Licensed

1300 Finch Avenue West, Downsview, Ontario M3J 3K2
(Keele/Finch)



*Dining Lounge
*Business Luncheon Special
*Take Out or Delivery
*Special Occasion Party & Birthday Party

無任歡迎
堂食外賣
炒粉麵飯
煲仔板
名爐鐵板
粵菜燒臘

Business Hours

Mon.—Thurs 11:30a.m.—12Midnight
Fri.—Sat. 11:30a.m.—1:00a.m.
Sun.—Holiday 12:00noon—11:00p.m.

Delivery start at 11:30a.m.

739-6600