

UNIVERSITY NEWSBEAT

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Equal Parts Commitment and Playing Ability Demanded

YORK ORCHESTRA OPENS CONCERT SEASON

"I can literally have a nervous breakdown, a heart attack, be diagnosed for cancer, have my teeth fixed, my will probated, my affairs put into order by an accountant, die, and be buried without ever leaving the podium," grinned James McKay, referring to the large number of working professionals in the Community Chamber Orchestra (CCO) of York University which he directs. Three-quarters of the orchestra are amateur and professional musicians of all ages, and students from the University of Toronto's Conservatory of Music. The remaining one-quarter are York faculty and students.

Designed after the National Arts Centre model, the 45-member CCO specializes in Baroque, eighteenth century, early nineteenth century, and twentieth century pieces. The orchestra performs three concerts, all beginning at 8:00 p.m., in the next two weeks: on Sunday, November 25 at York University Fine Arts on Markham, on Monday, November 26 at Glendon College's THEATRE GLENDON, and Monday, December 3 at Burton Auditorium. The programme, which will be repeated each evening, includes Warlock's "Capree Suite," Mozart's "The Clarinet Concerto," Gounod's "The Petite Symphonie," and Beethoven's "Symphonie No. 1."

Formerly known as the Glendon Orchestra, the CCO was founded in 1968 by the first conductor, Glendon professor of French and humanities Alain Baudot, and by a group of wind players who wanted to create a small classical orchestra with high programming and performing standards. After eight successful seasons it was disbanded briefly in

1976, to be reformed in 1977 under the direction of Prof. McKay. Being coordinator of chamber music performance at York, Prof. McKay recognized the need for an on-campus orchestra that could give a service to the community, provide experience for York students, and bring both campuses together in a common project.

"The Orchestra is personally satisfying for me from a musical point of view. Over the season and a half I've learned a great deal including how to deal with people from widely divergent backgrounds in a positive social and musical way. I'm pleased when the orchestra does its best, and try to reinforce the things that are done well. But I'm never satisfied with the level of performance achieved because we can always do better," says Prof. McKay.

He demands members try to overreach themselves and play beyond their expected capability. They respond knowing he makes the same demands on himself, and that he believes he can never give enough energy to the orchestra.

Prof. McKay said, "results at concerts are oftentimes beyond my wildest expectations. It's those moments that make all the administrative, personal, and technical frustrations found in any community type orchestra worthwhile." He also praised the good and necessary work done by a number of talented orchestra helpers: former Glendon student Joan Harvey as business manager, Atkinson student Pat McKay as librarian in charge of music, York music student Joan Hurlhehy as equipment manager, and lawyer Blair McKenzie as Chairman of the Board.



Community and University play together in CCO

Auditions for the orchestra are held in September at the beginning of each season. Qualities Prof. McKay requires of his musicians are equal parts of commitment and playing ability. He explains "I've never really had trouble getting orchestra members. In fact, the orchestra is gaining a reputation so we're actually turning people away, and there is already a waiting list in the winds and brass sections. He adds that "the quality of the orchestra

this year compared with last year's is 20 times greater, because of the core of people who've stayed on and are used to each other and to my direction."

Each year all new repertoire is selected, and three entirely different concert programmes are developed. Recognizing that all members of his orchestra are volunteers giving freely of their time, music director McKay chooses pieces that the players will find interesting, that are fun to

play, and most importantly, that are technically and musically challenging. He explains that the end result might not be so polished, but the difficult repertoire is a definite attraction because it is not usually chosen in non-professional community orchestras. In each concert programme he schedules one chamber piece and tries to feature solos by members of the orchestra wherever possible. Prof. McKay adds that the professional level players help the less experienced on an individual basis and also take the lead in difficult group pieces.

Financial support to maintain the CCO comes from members' subscriptions, the Masters Office and Student Council of McLaughlin College, the Faculty of Fine Arts, the co-curricular committee and Glendon College. Orchestra management are now attempting to win non-campus funds and are applying to both Wintario for instrument financing, and to a charitable fund to commission a new work for the Orchestra to premiere by internationally known Canadian composer Milton Barnes.

York community members are cordially invited to attend and enjoy the Community Chamber Orchestra's first performances of the 1979-80 season on November 25, 26, and December 3. No tickets are required, admission is free.

COMBINE SCIENCE AND BUSINESS

It's no secret that Canada's dying technological innovation industry needs talented scientists capable of developing and marketing their own inventions. There are also many areas of business where scientific knowledge and research skills are much in demand. To open up to students the possibility of a career combining science and business the Faculties of Science and Administrative Studies have developed two programmes: one a "teaser" series of five lectures, the other a challenging degree programme that saves a full year of study.

As early as 1977 the two Faculties established a joint honours science/Masters of Business Administration program, in which honours science students could take a number of business courses while still undergraduates. The time required for their subsequent MBA degree would thereby be reduced from two years to one.

Surprisingly, as yet no science student has opted for this programme. Chemistry professor Robert Lundell, dean of the Faculty of Science, attributes this apparent disinterest both to a lack of awareness of business opportunities among science students and to the poor attitude abroad in Canada towards technological innovation. He faults the federal government for failing in its responsibility to support and promote the development of needed technology from within the country.

To try to change this attitude on home ground, the Faculty of Science has invited the Faculty of Administrative Studies to give a series of five two-hour "consciousness raising" lectures aimed primarily at faculty and post doctoral fellows, but open to all science students.

Prof. Robert Grasley's task in this series will be to discuss the "development of commercially feasible new technological concepts generated in Canada by Canadians for Canadians." Topics under discussion will be: behavioural characteristics of inventors, innovators, entrepreneurs, promoters and managers; steps in the commercialization of inventions; the role and function of the entrepreneur; interfacing with the financial sector; and an overview of the Canadian environment for technological invention, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Prof. Grasley reports that "in order to commercialize a new technological concept, it is neces-

sary for the inventor or discoverer to first recognize its potential. They then must fully understand the process of development, and finally, the principles of exploitation used to reach commercial diffusion. This subject matter is rarely taught in any of our technical institutions or faculties, and as a result, our qualified scientists and engineers are ill equipped to benefit personally from their creative efforts. In from their creative efforts.

This series of lectures starting in late November is being financed by the Faculty of Science. For times, dates, and locations please contact the Faculty office at 667-2316.

\$100,000 Donated to Launch Fund Raising Campaign

Former Board of Governors Chairman Bertrand Gerstein has donated \$100,000 to York University to launch the University's upcoming campaign for funds.

The gift was revealed by President H. Ian Macdonald at a recent dinner hosted by the Chancellor, The Honourable John P. Roberts in honour of Mr. Gerstein's generous support and service to the University since its founding twenty years ago.

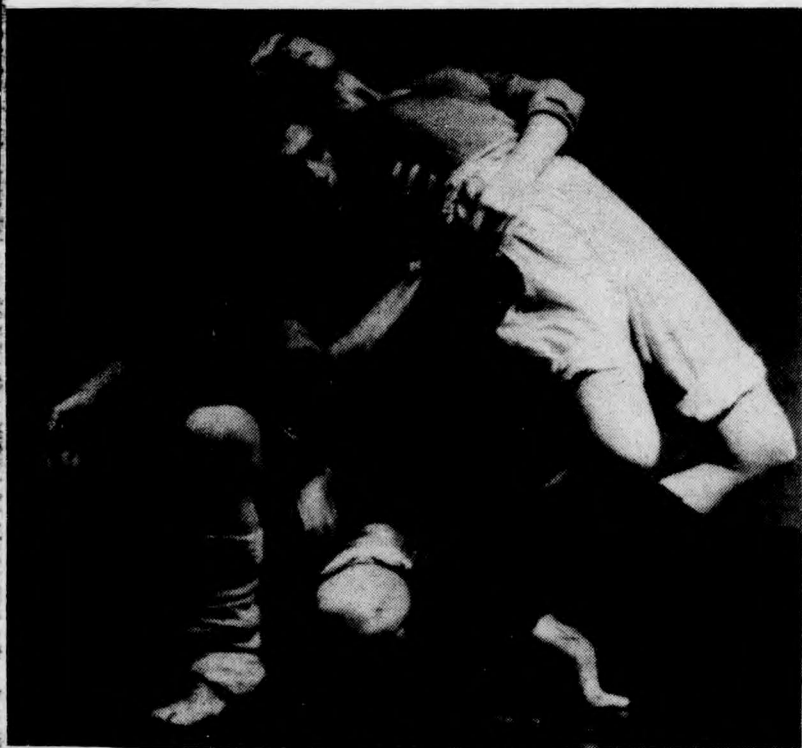
In his tribute to Mr. Gerstein's many and continuing efforts on behalf of York, President Macdonald said "... I am going to mention tonight, at the risk of embarrassing him, a fact which he has modestly concealed. I do so simply because it is characteristic of Bert's generosity, and I think everyone should know about it. Last winter, he and I had a number of discussions about the elaborate and careful plans which must be laid for York University to embark upon a major fund-raising venture. In those discussions, Bert

Gerstein was careful to point out at all times that it is not sufficient to just talk about raising money, but all of us within the community must demonstrate, as an article of faith, that we believe in what we are doing and that we are prepared to support it directly.

"And so, in the midst of those discussions, Bert handed me a pledge for \$100,000 not as a corporate gift, but as a personal contribution. He has indicated that this gift should be untied to any particular purpose, in order to launch our financial campaign on its way and to provide the University with a measure of flexibility in the allocation of funds. That was an extraordinary act of generosity and a further indication of Bert's fundamental faith and belief in what we are doing at York."

The dinner was attended by past and present Board members as well as representatives from the student body, faculties, and staff.

Edges and Festivities at Burton



Le Groupe de la Place Royale performs November 23

Burton Auditorium presents seven performances in the next two weeks.

The "Edges" series events include: the November 28 lecture on Post-Modern Theatre by noted New York director Richard Schechner; the November 29 jazz concert by the energized innovators of the Art Ensemble of Chicago; the famed Russian Mini Bolshoi's dance performance on December 9.

A unique Canadian dance ensemble, Le Groupe de la Place Royale, known for its exploration

of space and imagery in movement, come November 23.

Fine Arts Festive Week begins on December 3 with the Community Chamber Orchestra (CCO) performance. Necessary Angel, a theatre company formed by former Fine Arts students presents "Electra" on December 4, and there is a concert by the noted York Winds on Dec. 7.

All performances start at 8 p.m. The CCO and York Winds concerts are free; for prices and ticket reservations for other events, contact the Burton Box Office at 667-2370.