

# YORK JAZZ GOES TO SWEDEN



Returning from Sweden are the jazz trio of John Gittens (piano), Don Thompson (bass) and Barry Elmes (drums).

by Roslyn Angel

York's Gittens Jazz Trio has recently returned from the International Jazz Festival in Umea, Sweden.

Although York and Umea University have had a cultural exchange programme since 1984,

it has yet to include the fine arts, and especially jazz, in its agenda. Alf Bang, assistant coordinator of the York-Umea exchange, said that sending the Gittens trio was the first step.

According to Gittens, pianist and York's jazz programme director, the trio was successful, but

"it's hard to tell, there hasn't been a commitment on either side," to further include jazz into the exchange.

"We went to Sweden with two tasks in mind," he added. "One was to play the concerts," which included two performances at the festival and one at the University of Umea. The second task was "to talk with people about cultural exchanges between Umea and York."

Gittens wanted to get a sense of how things were run in Umea with regard to the arts. "We wanted to learn how the government deals with the arts and what the cultural policy is for the whole region," he said. "We also wanted to explain what we do at York."

Gittens, bassist Don Thompson and drummer Barry Elmes were in Umea from October 30 to November 5, which Bang describes as "fantastic PR for York. The festival is so prestigious and it's the first time York has ever gone."

In past years, the festival has presented performers such as Oscar Peterson, Ella Fitzgerald and Count Basie.

As assistant coordinator, Bang has considered involving the film and theatre departments into the programme. But for now, he is concentrating on the music department. "There is a good chance that some jazz musicians will be invited to the Toronto Jazz Festival in June," said Bang.

Bang also hopes to include students into the exchange if and when jazz becomes a part of it. But the students will have to be "absolute first class," said Bang, because of the calibre of the talent. Sending students would be "a good experience and a good promotional thing for them," said Bang, "but it is up to the faculty to set the stage."

# JACKSON'S POINT

by Jennifer Salter

A collection of poetry by Kenneth Sherman, *Jackson's Point*, is a wonderful portrayal of childhood summers spent in Northern Ontario. Sherman describes cherished memories; he treats people, experiences and landscapes with sensitivity and respect. The characters, perceptions and feelings of his childhood continue to exercise impact on the poet, even now.

The title poem of the book is about Sherman revisiting Jackson's Point to carefully record observations of the memories the town evokes:

*Today I sit on the weather side  
in a cottage that is deserted  
watching through the window  
as a ritual circle of boys  
on the other  
on the bayside pier  
swing a girl  
in choral countdown  
and heave her into deep water.  
I put my pen to white paper.*

Sherman allows readers to relate to the childhood act of playing pranks. In the reference to "ritual," Sherman is suggesting

that the play of these little boys and the battles between the sexes at a young age are universal. Sherman's personal experiences have surely coloured his portrayal of these events.

There are several instances in *Jackson's Point* where Sherman appears to be struggling to find a balance between his boyhood memories and his present life. This is apparent in the title poem where Sherman attempts to evoke childhood through present imagery.

It is also evident in "Prologue," as Sherman writes of sharp, clear recollections, such as the "scalding boardwalk" and "french fries with vinegar in a cardboard container." He then writes,

*Years later I returned  
to pace the main drag  
in search of lost persons,  
an epoch  
reduced to black and  
white photographs...*

There is an element of sadness and loss in his realizations; magic seems to have escaped from a place that he once associated with fascinating people and the trials of maturation.

Jackson's Point now is not the same as Jackson's Point then. When reading this poetry, a person realizes that many aspects of our past lose their clarity.

In Part II of the book, Sherman also deals with city life and family unhappiness. Sherman shares his feelings of loneliness, alienation and even disgust. He writes:

*Father had gone to work  
to cure another of his  
"Sunday headaches"  
and I was left with  
Mother,  
withdrawn, depressed,  
taken to bed.*

Because Sherman had to deal with an absent father and "withdrawn" mother, it is understandable that he turned to written communication during his youth. He can retreat to Jackson's Point, if only in spirit, and escape these troubles. The town is a refuge from pain and broken dreams.

In *Jackson's Point*, Sherman illustrates that memories are necessary and inevitable. Beautiful poetics are used with care and integrity. This is his method of preservation. It is more effective than peering into old, black and white photographs.

In one of his poems, Sherman quotes Proust as saying, "Remembrance of a particular image is but regret for a particular moment." Recalling parts on oneself by creating poetry can be painful, but in order to deal with "regret," one must be brave enough to crystallize it on paper.

## EUROCENTRES LEARN A LANGUAGE LIVE A LANGUAGE

Language immersion courses  
in France, Germany, Spain or Italy

For more information and a colour brochure,  
complete this coupon and mail it to:

### TRAVEL CUTS

187 College St. Toronto, Ontario, M5T 1P7

(416) 979-2406

74 Gerrard St. E. Toronto, Ontario, M5B 1G6

(416) 977-0441

2476 Yonge St. Toronto, Ontario, M4P 2H5

(416)322-6623

Ont Reg. # 1324998/0045518/3129043

Please send me more information on Eurocentres,  
and other language programs.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**TRAVEL CUTS**  
Going Your Way!



## 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  
煲仔鐵板  
名爐燒臘  
粵菜小炒

Business Hours

Delivery start at 11:30a.m.

739-6600

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

華晶閣

## STUDENT, GO HOME CHEAP BECAUSE: (BUS FARE IS CHEAPER THAN BELL'S FARE.)

Andrea Midgley of Guelph sent us her good reason for going home (Cheap!) - and we sent her a voucher for a free return trip anywhere on our system. If you have a good reason - send it to us with your name, address and phone number. If we publish it - we'll send you a voucher just like Andrea's. Mail to: Gray Coach Student Contest, 180 Dundas Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1Z8.

## Gray Coach



A reclining seat. Air conditioning. A washroom. And somebody else to drive.

More Info? Phone 393-7911