

Arts & Entertainment

Caledon Concert Band goes for the gold at MusicFest

In this year of Olympic dreams, the 42 members of the Caledon Concert Band have a dream as well.

Just recently, the band will compete at the National Finals of MusicFest Canada, and they hope to bring home the gold.

In February, the band competed at the Ontario Band Association competition held in Toronto. The band performed three classic band test pieces: The Hounds of Spring by Alfred Reed, Variations on a Korean Folk Song by John Barnes Chance, and Second Suite in F by Gustav Holst. The performance before two seasoned adjudicators not only earned the band a Silver Award, but something more valuable as well: an invitation to compete at the national finals.

Attendance at the MusicFest finals is by invitation only.

This is the first time the band has been invited to compete against the best

bands from schools and communities across Canada. The festival will be held at the National Arts Centre in our nation's capital, and nearly 10,000 participants are expected from all parts of the country.

The band's conductor, Rob Kinnear, was pleased with both the band's performance and the invitation to compete.

"It's an opportunity not only to play, but to hear the best of the best perform, and to learn from them," Kinnear said. "It's inspiring and an opportunity not to be missed."

Band president Andy Dunn hopes the band will do well, but observed "whatever happens, whether we win gold or silver or nothing at all, it will be an experience that the members won't forget for a long time. It's a chance to have a goal, work together as a group, and develop ourselves musically.

"We're proud to

represent Caledon on a national stage."

The band's members are all volunteers from the Caledon area and neighbouring regions. The musicians range in age from high school students to retirees. Some have been playing music all their lives, and others have just begun their musical education.

It's not an inexpensive trip, and the band is fortunate to have some local sponsors who have stepped up to help out with the expenses. James Dick Construction Limited has helped sponsor the band for the past five years, and continues this year with assistance when it is really needed. Prudential Select Real Estate is helping out as well this year, and their support is appreciated, Dunn says. He hopes other local businesses may be able to help as well, particularly to provide funding to help the student members of the band who otherwise couldn't afford the trip.



Andy Dunn (centre), Caledon Concert Band association president, accepts a \$1,000 cheque from Bolton Rotary's Hal Gregory (left) and president Craig Daniell.

Bolton Rotary boosts concert band

Caledon Concert Band president Andy Dunn accepted a cheque for \$1,000 from Craig Daniell, president of the Rotary Club of Bolton recently.

The Caledon Concert Band Association is a non-profit, charitable community group dedicated to the furtherance of musical education and personal musical development. The organization's principal project, the Caledon Concert Band, is a 45-member group composed of high school and university students, adults and retirees, who

meet weekly to rehearse, learn, develop themselves, and mentor each other.

May 20, the band competed at the National Finals of MusicFest Canada. Competing in the top category against the best bands from across Canada provides a challenge for the band members and gives them further reason to improve their playing abilities. This is the first time in the band's 32-year history that they have been invited to compete at this exclusive festival, being held this year in Ottawa.

The members wish to express their gratitude to the Rotary Club of Bolton for their generous support which makes the competition trip to Ottawa affordable.

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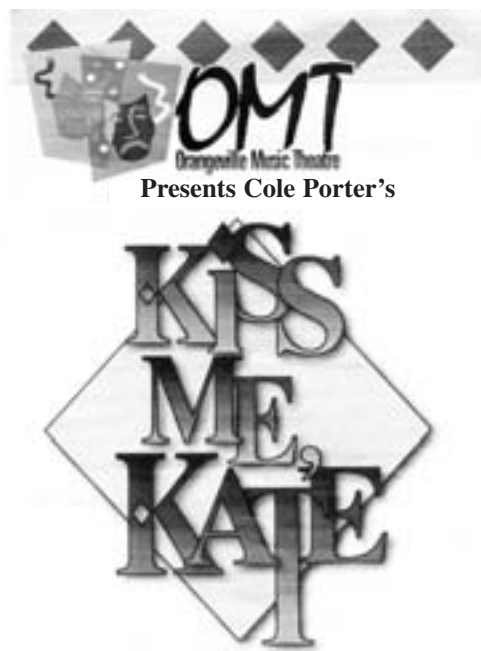


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