

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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District students enjoy a rare musical treat



Eric Nowlin and Jin-Shan Dai pictured with the Grade 6 Class from St. Francis School.

by Marlene Deschamps

The Rainy River District School Board welcomed the Toronto Symphony Orchestra Duo of Jin-Shan Dai (violin) and Eric Nowlin (viola) to Fort Frances to hold several entertaining and educational sessions for students over a two day period (April 6th - 8th). It was a great introduction of the violin and viola to students from across the district. These events took place daily in the theatre of the Fort Frances High School.

Violinist, Jin-Shan Dai, joined the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in September, 2004, and is one of the newest members of the orchestra. Prior to his arrival in Toronto, Jin was a member of the New Haven Symphony and the Hartford Symphony, and has played in orchestras and music festivals around the world. He has held leading positions in festival orchestras such as the Schlewag Holstein Music Festival in Germany, the Pacific Music Festival Orchestra in Japan, the Jerusalem International Music Festival in Israel, the Music Academy of the West Festival Orchestra in Santa Barbara, California, and the Spoleto Festival U.S.A. in Charleston, South Carolina. In 2006, Jin was invited to play

for the Worldwide Chinese New Year concert in Shanghai, China. Aside from being an active orchestral musician, Jin

Violin Competition. He is a recent graduate of Yale University where he studied under Peter Oundjian, the current Music Director of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

Violist Eric Nowlin has performed extensively throughout the United States as well as abroad. Past accomplishments include receiving first prize in the 2003 Irving Klein International String Competition; first prize in the 2002 Hellam Young Artists Competitions; grand prize in the 2001 Naftzger Young Artists Competition; and winner of the 2001 Juilliard Viola Competition, which led to a performance of Hindemith Konzertmusik with Roberto Minzcek conducting the Juilliard Orchestra in Alice Tully Hall. Eric Nowlin's performances have included solo engagements with the Springfield Symphony in Missouri, Santa Cruz Symphony, Peninsula Peninsula and the Kumamoto Symphony in Japan, as well as recitals in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and Mexico. He is an active chamber musician, participating in festivals such as the Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont and the Steans Institute for Young Artists at Ravinia. In addition to solo and

chamber music performances, Eric performs regularly as a

substitute in the viola section of the New York Philharmonic. Eric was chosen as the recipient of a Rachel Elizabeth Barton Foundation Grant in 2004, an award intended for the advancement of young artist's performance careers. Mr. Nowlin received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Juilliard School, as a scholarship student of Samuel Rhodes. He plays on a 1700 Matteo Goffriller viola on generous loan from the Rachel Elizabeth Barton Foundation.

The tour is sponsored by a special grant from an arts education initiative in partnership with the Ontario Arts Council. Last year they toured in the North Bay and Thunder Bay areas. They have already traveled to Timmins and Moose Factory where the full orchestra performed. After performing in Northwestern Ontario the duo will be headed back to Toronto. It is very easy to see when you are watching the two young men that they love what they are doing, they have fun while they are doing the shows and they relate very well to the students, whether they be from the youngest ages or high school seniors. They appear to

take a lot of enjoyment having the students ask questions and do their best to answer them. When they had finished playing and then answering questions from Grade Six students from throughout the region, there was a group of students from St. Francis who were up on stage with them to have their pictures taken and further conversation. Some of the students were asking Jin how to say this word or that word in Chinese and he obliged. He then asked where they came from and when he heard the name of one of the First Nations communities, he asked if someone spoke Ojibwa. When the answer was yes from a couple of students, Jin started asking them to answer the same questions they had asked in their native language. It was a short time on stage with the duo and the students but they seemed to have a great time.

Walking out of the theatre, I heard a comment "Man, I never heard a violin played like that before-it was awesome"-which for me, summed up the benefits such a wonderful tour brings to the students of the district.



Jin-Shan Dai and Eric Nowlin quickly taught students that there's a lot more to enjoy in music than rock.

also enjoys being an active chamber music player. He has performed with the Emerson String Quartet, premiered the Lowell Liebermann Piano Trio in Sapporo, Japan, and attended the Taos Chamber Music Festival in Taos, New Mexico. Jin has won the Emerson Chamber Music Competition, and was second prize winner of the Van Rooy

in Missouri, Santa Cruz Symphony, Peninsula Peninsula and the Kumamoto Symphony in Japan, as well as recitals in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and Mexico. He is an active chamber musician, participating in festivals such as the Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont and the Steans Institute for Young Artists at Ravinia. In addition to solo and

Fort Frances Little Theatre presents Suzette's Closet



Jenna Nowak

by Marlene Deschamps

The three act play will be performed as dinner theatre at LaPlace Rendez-Vous, April 23, 24 and 25th. Cocktails are at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 and the

show will follow the dinner. Advance tickets are \$35 and are available at the Rendezvous.

Suzette's Closet, written and directed by Tracy Gibson, is a comedy in three acts. The play

is about a French maid, played by Jenna Nowak, who works at a hotel. She finds herself accidentally trapped inside the armoire of a room one night and is able to watch the goings-on through a little knot hole in the closet. She decides to keep repeating the experience. Tracy wrote the play a few years ago and was encouraged to bring it to Little Theatre to see if they were interested in bringing Suzette's Closet to the public. Well they were interested and the cast are busy with rehearsals for the play that we can all get to see. Most of the cast members are familiar names to patrons of Fort Frances Little Theatre and they include: Rob Tovey; Joyce McCormick; Brian Hagarty; Aela MacKintosh; Drew Donald; Brittany Hayes; Darren Derendorf and Casey Hawrylak and of course, Jenna Nowak, who plays Suzette.

The play is the story of the things that Suzette has witnessed during her nights in the closet. Needless to say, there will be no giving away of Suzette's secrets, but they do include the elderly, a religious dilemma and a wedding night surprise. The only thing that is a give away is that you will have a great time and will really enjoy this latest presentation from Fort Frances Little Theatre.

Schedule of Events

Thursday

- Hagen Log Homes show at Emo Arena
- Freedom 55 Financial Gary Foster at Emo Arena
- Royal Canadian Legion #99 selling tickets on Front St.

Friday

- Hagen Log Homes at arena
- Freedom 55 Financial Gary Foster at Emo Arena
- 10 to 5pm Book Sale at Emo Public Library
- 10 to 4pm Emo Knox United Church Penny Table at Emo Arena
- 11 to 2pm Emo Rec Council selling hotdogs and smokies on Front Street
- 11 to 2pm Emo Spray Park selling hotdogs at Emo Arena
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch #99 selling tickets on Front Street
- Peterbilt Truck display at Norlund Oil

Saturday

- 7:30 to 10:30 Pancake & Sausage Breakfast at Christian Reformed Church sponsored by Dorcas Society and Coffee Break Groups
- 9 to noon Cuts for Cancer at Hair and Body Shoppe
- 10 to 4pm Crafts Galore at Emo Legion soup and sandwich served
- 11 to 2pm Book Sale at Emo Public Library
- 10 to 4pm Emo Knox United Church Penny Table at Emo Arena
- 11 to 2pm Family Fun Day at Emo Curling Club sponsored by Emo Rec Council
- 11 to 2pm on Front Street Emo Rec Council serving hot dogs and smokies
- 11 to 2pm Emo Spray Park selling hotdogs at Emo Arena
- 11 to 2pm BBQ at DeGagne Equipment
- 11 to 2pm Poker Walkabout - register at Tompkins hardware
- Peterbilt Truck Display at Norlund Oil
- Antique Car and Truck display at Norlund Oil (weather permitting)
- 12 noon Antique Car and Truck parade along Front St. (weather permitting)
- Shaving of Heads for Cuts for Cancer at Hair and Body Shoppe
- Royal Canadian Artillery from Kenora on display at Emo Arena
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch #99 Tickets on sale on Front Street
- Draw for \$1,000 Emo Gift Certificates will be at Nestor Falls Marine in Emo Arena at 4pm.

Emo Chamber of Commerce Member Participants

Emo Drugs	Norlund Oil	West End Motors - Emo
Cloverleaf Shop Easy	Emo Feed Service	Nestor Falls Marine
Tompkins Hardware	Village Variety	The Corner Closet
Meyers Clothing	Gillons' Insurance	Emo Inn
Hair & Body Care Shoppe	Kaemingh Fuels Ltd.	Circle D Restaurant
Borderland Esso	Canasian Restaurant	The Thread Shed
Rejuvenate Fitness Club	Visser Auto	DeGagne Equipment
Ken's Central Service	Scrap-a-lot	

Sponsors

CIBC	Inventors Group-Robin Wright	The Westend Weekly
ML Judson Trucking	Dale Hartlin Reno	B93 FM
Mel's Well Drilling	Ainsworth Engineering	Ray Jewell Repair
Wes Derksen-Law Office	Hettinga Mechanical	Emo Municipality
Harold McQuaker Enterprises	KGHS	Baker Graphics
Northridge Funeral Home	Fort Frances Times	JTJ Contracting
Hagen Log Homes	Aurora Wind Farm	Lilac Hill Woodworks
Chapple Municipality	RRFDC	
Emo Forest Products	Freedom 55 Financial-Gary Foster	
Peterbilt Trucks	Larry & Shirley Allen-Home Base Businesses	
Tamrack International Motor Cross Track	Ed's Plumbing & Heating	

SPRING

Fever in Emo

Thursday, Friday, Saturday
April 16, 17, 18

Shop Emo
It's Worth the Drive
During Spring Fever
Register for
\$1,000
in
Gift Certificates
at participating
businesses

Thursday, Friday and Saturday you will find:

- Tompkins Hardware Boat Show at store
- Nestor Falls Marine Boat Show at arena
- Borderland Esso and DeGagne Equipment Lawn and Garden Show

