

## MUSICAL LIFE:

# WE ARE ALL MUSIC'S CHILDREN

by mJ Buell

FEBRUARY's CHILD.....

...was **Kerry Stratton:**

Conductor and Music Director of the **Toronto Philharmonia**; founder and conductor of the **Grand Salon Orchestra**; Music Director (since 1992) for the **Huntsville Festival of the Arts, Ontario**. Through his company, **International Touring Productions**, he has created Canadian tours for the **George Solti Orchestra, Budapest**; the **Vienna Concert-Verein, Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra** and **Orchestra Internazionale d'Italia**.

[www.kerrystratton.com](http://www.kerrystratton.com)

### Earliest musical memory?

Being allowed to "play" on the piano at my aunt's house. 2 or 3 years old. "Play softly, your cousin is sleeping."

### Other musicians in your family?

Not really, but everybody sang, or so it seemed.

### First experiences?

Outside of the family, it would have been what I now realize was a highly reliable public school system which encouraged children's choirs. There were few concerts in our little town but the Community Concerts Association brought really first rate artists including a performance one memorable year by the Prague Chamber Orchestra. I was enchanted!

### What was your first instrument? When did you start conducting?

My first instrument was the violin. I started conducting in my last year of high school: my music teacher let me conduct the band for assemblies.

### Did you ever think you would do anything else?

In my childhood, I wondered if there was any work available leading cavalry charges or in piracy. In my teens I toyed with teaching history.

### Starting to think of yourself as a musician?

When I moved away from home I met other young musicians who wanted this as much as I did. Suddenly, I was no longer alone in my love of this music. My first experience away from home to study music was at the Congress of Strings in Ohio in 1970, the summer of Kent State. In the autumn of that same year I left for McGill just in time for the Quebec crisis.

### If you could travel back through time to the young person in that childhood photo (or maybe just a



Left: My grandparents' farm, RR6 Belleville, in 1958: the family farm was much more common than it is now. One of the distinct advantages of the car featured here was that it had no radio. This meant that Sunday drives were accompanied with lots of singing. I loved it when everyone sang. I still do.



### little older), what might you say?

Be patient. You will leave this place, you will travel and you will meet so many wonderful people. I would also tell him that he would get over his crush on Hayley Mills.

### UpComing:

Kerry Stratton conducts **Toronto Philharmonia** (March 5, April 2, May 7); the **Grand Salon Orchestra** who launch a "Palm Court style" Concert Party series at The Old Mill Inn (April 15th); and a Canadian tour with **Slovak Sinfonietta** April 29-May 9, 2010

### Recent recordings:

**Vivaldi Four Seasons Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra**, International Music Festival, Cesky Krumlov, recorded by Auvix; **Brahms Violin Concerto and Double Concerto** with **Nuremberg Symphony**, soloists: Daniel Weiss, cello and Jung Yoon Yang, violin.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS

### !!Tickets & Recordings!!

**Bonnie Craig:** two complimentary cover charges to the very first Concert Party at **The Old Mill Inn** (Wed. April 15), featuring the **Grand Salon Orchestra** (concert begins at 8pm, dinner at 6. reservations are suggested)

**Lorna Rogers:** two tickets for **Toronto Philharmonia's Keyboard Fireworks** (Thurs. Apr. 2, 8pm) with Simon Docking, piano: *Chan, Revelation; Chabrier Pastoral Suite; Prokofiev Piano Concerto No 3;*

**Judith Haynal** will receive *Hovhanness: Celestial Fantasy* (DORIAN -93166) featuring the **Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra Bratislava**, conducted by Kerry Stratton. Hovhanness' music evokes spirituality, the mystery and grandeur of nature, and the power of faith.

*Music's Children gratefully acknowledges Linda Litwack, The Old Mill Inn and Spa, The Toronto Philharmonia, and people who sing in the car.*



## MARCH's Child...

photo: circa 1949, in **Watonga Oklahoma**. The gaze already says "Subdivide and conquer!"

"Knock, knock."  
"Who's there?"  
"Knock, knock."  
"Who's there?"  
"Knock, knock."  
"Who's there?"  
"Knock, knock."  
"Who's there?"

Think you know who MARCH's child is?

Send your best guess to [musicschildren@thewholenote.com](mailto:musicschildren@thewholenote.com) (be sure to send us your mailing address, just in case your name is drawn!)

Winners will be selected by random draw among correct replies received by March 15 2009.

**AMOROSO**  
New & Used  
CDs Vinyl Records DVDs

**CLASSICAL OPERA JAZZ**  
WORLD BLUES R & B AUDIOPHILE  
ROCK SOUNDTRACK COLLECTABLES

We pay top \$\$\$ for your  
CLASSICAL & JAZZ COLLECTIONS  
4 St.Patrick (at Queen near Osgoode station)  
[www.amorosomusic.com](http://www.amorosomusic.com) 416-591-1313

## PASQUALE BROS. "Quality since 1917"



Cheeses from around the world, meats, groceries, dry goods gift baskets...

Everything you need for reception planning.

416-364-7397

[www.pasqualebros.com](http://www.pasqualebros.com)

16 Goodrich Rd., Etobicoke (south of Bloor, west off Islington)

Email: [goodfood@pasqualebros.com](mailto:goodfood@pasqualebros.com) 1 800 664-0430

## CD and DVD Duplicating

- Short runs (5 - 500 or more)
- Colour or B&W printed CD's
- Complete packaging
- Fast dependable service
- Top quality
- Cost effective
- Brochures
- Posters
- Business Cards
- Digital Colour Printing
- Graphic Design
- Audio & Video transfers

**Canclone**  
Servicos Inc.

[www.canclone.com](http://www.canclone.com)  
[sales@canclone.com](mailto:sales@canclone.com)

3267 Lakeshore Blvd. W. Toronto, Ont. M6K 2N5

**416 620-6933**