

Young orchestra music to the ears

On Sunday at the Cambridge Centre for the Arts Toyota Auditorium, the Cambridge Community Orchestra put on a full concert.

They had been rehearsing every week on Sunday evenings in the Toyota Room for weeks while they learned new pieces. The concert was most enjoyable. To see how the orchestra is maturing is a



At this time of year, there are so many holiday events, concerts, choirs, and other musical entertainment that the potential audiences are divided.

It is not an easy choice; there were at least three other musical events on Sunday.

The Community Orchestra had a good crowd, which will no doubt grow as they become better

known in the community. Because the members are all volunteers, this is a remarkable accomplishment by the founder Ann Green. Ann is a very dedicated musician who took it upon herself to form the orchestra.

Many people thought this time Ann had "bitten off more than she could chew", but Ann is not afraid of hard work, and this, combined with her unfaltering enthusiasm, is what brought the orchestra into being. With friends and other musicians supporting her, she was able to accomplish this.

Ann is a composer, music teacher and owner of Beyond the Clef Music School in Hespeler, who has brought more music to Hespeler than they have had in years.

The orchestra of approximately 30 members is a diverse group. A few professional music teachers are among the other players, most of whom have day jobs outside of the music field and play for the fun and personal satisfaction.

Just listening to them you can tell they are enjoying

themselves.

The orchestra was one of the artistic off-shoots of the Mayor's Celebration of the Arts and in 2004, the orchestra played in public for the first time at that event in June.

They were a great hit and while they mature and grow more confident in their ability and talent, their dedicated followers are delighted with their performances.

The following year, one of the recipients of the funds raised from the Mayor's celebration was the orchestra, which purchased three timpanis with some of the funds and used the remainder for ongoing costs.

Many of you will not have known about the event because they do things on a shoestring without professional administrative staff, so the publicity is not very apparent. But all that will change as the orchestra grows.

To watch the faces of the students, the concentration of the men and women who play, is in part as satisfying as listening to the music. Some of the players had not played in years before joining the orchestra.

They dusted off instruments, dug them out from attics and basements, and with courage in hand, came together to see what a community orchestra would be like.

They are not yet ready to compete with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, which is one of the best orchestras in Ontario, but they give a good evening's entertainment, and a great deal of satisfaction to their members and audiences alike.

Congratulations to them all.