

For the love of music

82-year-old Ray Dietz still plays violin he bought with his paperboy's salary

By Valerie Hill, Record staff

Ray Dietz cradles the Breton violin against his neck, as he has done for more than 70 years, a testament to a determined boy with a penchant for music.

"I paid \$100 for it in the 1930s, it's a good violin," said Dietz, now 82 and the oldest member of the Cambridge Community Orchestra.

But there is much more to this story.

Ray was a boy at the time, being raised by a single mother in Hamilton during the Great Depression after the family was abandoned by his father.

For such a boy, \$100 was an unfathomable amount of money, but a kindly music lover who attended Dietz's church, played in its orchestra and frequently dealt in stringed instruments, offered him the Breton, provided he pay \$1 a week from his paper route until the debt was paid in full.

The man knew the boy and trusted him to live up to his end of the bargain.

He was not disappointed.

Ray's wife of nearly 60 years, Anita, who met her husband in the young people's group at church, noted that like Ray, many children got their start in music at church.

She herself is an accomplished pianist and a glossy, ebony grand piano graces much of their living room.

"I started piano lessons at age five, and violin at 12," said Dietz, a retired Christian Missionary Alliance minister and father of two.

Music has been a large part of the couple's married life and continues today in their retirement, their passion for music having started decades ago.

As a young man, Dietz played in the Hamilton Symphony from 1947 to 1950, while completing an undergraduate degree at McMaster

Concert

Cambridge Community Orchestra's Una Serata Bella (A Beautiful Evening) fundraiser at Cambridge City Hall, an evening of music, candlelight, cocktails and a silent auction.

► Friday Feb. 12, 7 - 10 p.m.

► Tickets are \$35 with a \$20 tax receipt with the purchase of two tickets. Call 519-650-1741.

► The orchestra's next concert highlights youth members, Sunday, Feb. 28, at Forward Baptist Church, 455 Myers Rd., Cambridge, at 3 p.m. Community orchestra concerts are free. Visit www.cambridgeorchestra.ca

University. He played in the community orchestra in St. Paul, Minn., where he completed a divinity degree at Bethel Seminary.

His first church posting was in Ottawa, but Dietz was eventually transferred to Montreal and then Toronto, where he completed a masters degree in theology from Knox College at the University of Toronto.

By way of understatement, Anita said "he liked school," adding her husband was quite brilliant in his studies and that throughout his education and ministerial postings, music was never far from his mind, or his heart.

From Ottawa, Dietz's ministry also took him to Windsor then back to Montreal, though they settled in Kitchener in 1982 when he was offered a teaching position at Emmanuel Bible College.

Dietz retired from full-time teaching in 1997 and around the same time, the couple moved to Cambridge.

Anita said her husband's ministry career meant the family was always busy and he didn't always



Ray Dietz, a longtime member of the Cambridge Community Orchestra, still plays the violin he bought as a boy during the Depression.

have as much time to devote to his music.

Now, he's making up for lost time, playing in the community orchestra or anywhere else he's asked to entertain, and the sound of his beloved \$100 violin is richer today than when he purchased it as an eager boy with a paper route.

At 82, Dietz looks fit and healthy, years younger than his

age, though his memory isn't quite what it used to be and he has become a man of few words, yet he is as eager to perform as always.

"I play often in the church," he said, adding, "I enjoy it."

"I think it's part of his soul," added Anita. "He's never wanted to stop, no matter what."

vhill@therecord.com

Jackson estate opposes allowance for his father

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—Michael Jackson's estate has opposed a bid by the late singer's father to receive a monthly allowance, saying it would take money away from the singer's young children.

Attorneys for estate administrators John Branca and John McClain filed papers Thursday opposing Joe Jackson's efforts to get more than \$15,000 a month from his son's estate. The filing states Joe Jackson has failed to show his superstar son supported him while he was alive.

Jackson died June 25 in Los Angeles at age 50.

The filings also note the singer omitted his father as a beneficiary in his will and trust, and that any money paid to Joe Jackson would reduce the estate's assets available for Michael Jackson's mother and children.

Katherine Jackson and the children are receiving more than \$86,000 a month, and the administrators recently moved to increase the monthly stipend.

Joe Jackson filed for the monthly stipend in November, saying he had little income and relied on his son's help to live. It will be up to a judge to decide whether Joe Jackson receives any money from the estate. A hearing is set for Jan. 28.

The former manager of the Jackson 5 is seeking payment for expenses that include \$1,200 a month on rent for his Las Vegas home; \$2,500 to eat out; \$1,000 on entertainment, gifts and vacations; \$2,000 on air travel and \$3,000 on hotels.

The Associated Press

GUELPH
PSYCHIC EXPO
Jan. 29, 30, 31
BEST WESTERN
716 Gordon St. @ Stone Rd.
www.ESPmyFuture.com
For **FREE STUFF**

Community Support Connections *Meals on Wheels and More*

Presents the **8th Annual**
Symphony of Love
VALENTINE'S GALA

Saturday, February 13, 2010
St. George Banquet Hall

A truly spectacular evening with entertainment by the fabulous show-stopping **TORONTO ALL-STAR BIG BAND!** Silent Auction and Raffle.

For tickets please call **519-772-8787** or visit www.communitysupportconnections.org

Tickets are \$100 each with a \$50 charitable receipt

Thanks to our sponsors
WATERLOO REGION RECORD, Bullas Travel, CTV, GARY H. ATEACK, STRAIGHT STREET EVENT SERVICES

4th Annual **KPL KITCHENER PUBLIC LIBRARY**

WATERLOO REGION RECORD

Amateur Photography Contest and Exhibition

Send us your best 3 photos and you could win a framed enlargement or \$150 gift certificate from Frames Plus.

CATEGORIES: Nature, People, Architecture, and Photo Manipulation
DIVISIONS: Youth (ages 18 and under), and Adult (ages 19+)
GRAND PRIZE in each division: \$150 gift certificate from Frames Plus

CONTEST CLOSES January 31, 2010

Entry forms and complete contest details available at www.kpl.org
Be sure to read contest guidelines to ensure that your photographs are not disqualified.

Drop off entries to any Kitchener Public Library location or mail to:
Photography Contest, Kitchener Public Library,
85 Queen St. N., N2H 2H1

Framing of all winning prints courtesy of **Frames Plus**
519-571-0056
Custom Frames, Prints, Gifts, Plates

BMO Financial Group

PRESENTS THE **FUNDRAISING EVENT OF THE YEAR**
STUDIO 54

In support of the Waterloo Regional Children's Museum

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2010

FEATURING:

- Guest DJ Paul Grace
- Food and Signature Cocktails by Wildcraft
- New this year: The LAB Lounge
- Surprise Celebrity Appearances
- Front door Limo Service
- ..and something special!

Ticket: \$150*
Location: Studio 54 @ The Children's Museum

Full details at www.MuseumAfterDark.ca

TICKETS ARE SELLING FAST! ACT TODAY!
For more information and tickets contact:
Jennifer or Chantelle • Studio54@TheChildrensMuseum.ca
519 749-9387 x 222 • Group packages available

* maximum allowable tax receipt will be issued

MUSEUM afterdark

This ad space donated by the **WATERLOO REGION RECORD**