

Gleaning Music Tips from a Pro

Clarinet player will perform Winterlude concert with Orillia Wind Ensemble

By Monique Beech
The Packet & Times

It takes more than fancy lip work.

Playing the clarinet takes patience, persistence, social skills and a nose for climate change, says seasoned clarinetist Peter Stoll, a member of the Toronto Philharmonia and a University of Toronto music professor.

Hot, dry indoor air during the winter months dries reeds out faster, said Stoll. They have to be constantly changed and adjusted, he added.

"You can never count on playing the same way twice," he said.

Stoll shared these notes of wisdom yesterday with a group of about 40 young clarinet players at Park Street Collegiate.

The clarinet player's visit preempted his Feb. 28 concert appearance with the Orillia Wind Ensemble - which helps arrange Stoll's school visit.

His overview touched on basic breathing techniques to keeping an instrument in tune.

Winterlude concert attendees can be sure they won't hear the same tune twice, said Roy Menagh, director and conductor with the Orillia Wind Ensemble.

The night will feature everything from Handel's *Water Music* to marching music featured in the film *Waldo Pepper*. Stoll will also perform a few solos.



Packet photo/Monique Beech
Peter Stoll, a member of the Toronto Philharmonia and a University of Toronto music professor who will be performing with the Orillia Wind Ensemble Feb. 28, gives some tips to a Park Street music class.

Hosting a world renowned clarinetist raises the performance bar for the amateur musical ensemble, which has members from across Simcoe County, said Menagh.

"It inspires everybody to move along and learn their part," said Menagh.

Playing well with others is part of what it takes to be a good clarinetist, said Stoll.

"It's a social instrument. You're almost always playing with other clarinetists."

To stay on top of your game also takes dedication, he added.

"It's demanding. Like the violin, the clarinet is the backbone of the woodwinds."

To play it, and play it well, you have to have a sense of humour and patience, he said.

Tickets for the concert, to be held at St. Paul's United Church in Orillia, are available at Manticore Books, 103 Mississauga St. Adults are \$15, seniors \$12 and children \$5.

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