



This Week In Art/Culture /Entertainment

By John Swartz

A Review of A Concert Yet To Happen

I had a bit of luck to sit in on the recording of Peter Stoll's Orillia Concert Association concert premiering online this Sunday. Peter has been here before and this time he had Adam Zukiewicz along to accompany on piano. They recorded at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church - where the concert would have been anyway if the OCA hadn't decided to do the first two of their five concert series online only.

You can see the concert by ordering a season ticket [here](#). It's only \$70 and I dare you to find a better deal to see a concert of this type anywhere - let alone five. Here's why you should do this right away. They have to send you back the link to watch the concert - if you want to be in on the ground floor. The OCA is making it available for 30 days.

Here's another reason to see this concert. It's about one tune really. He plays two sections of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto. Peter prefaced playing by saying he found the arrangement and it was obviously written by someone who doesn't play clarinet because there's are passages of 16th note runs that go on for bars on end without a chance to breathe, so he said was going to use circular breathing to get through it.

I thought Maynard Ferguson was the one who popularized circular breathing, but before I went out on the wrong end of the limb I thought I'd look it up. It turns out it's an old technique Mongolians used making gold jewellery adapted by musicians centuries ago. What happens is wind players store some air in their cheeks and breathe in through the nose while pushing the pocket of air into their instrument. Maynard had big cheeks because when he did it he was loud. Anyway, in checking things out I found out Kenny G set a record playing one continuous note for over 45 minutes - and I thought all his songs were like that, one continuous, boring note of CD length.



Adam Zukiewicz and Peter Stoll

Seriously, I thought I was going to run out of breath when Peter did it. You'll also like the other tunes on the classical part of his concert. I often joke about clarinets and clarinet players (and as I do with all non-drummers), but this time I have nothing but respect for what I heard Peter do.

Then he dragged out his saxophone. He does some Gershwin – yes, *Rhapsody in Blue*, but he starts it stunningly on clarinet before switching to sax, Some Artie Shaw (a killer *Back Bay Shuffle*), and Woody Herman's *Blues on Parade*. He also did Benny Goodman's *Sing, Sing, Sing*, but I had to bug out to get to the Betty and the Bobs concert. I wanted to hear it. I wonder what might have happened if he knew someone was in a pew who actually knows the Gene Krupa drum parts –there is a drum set in the church.

The first in person concert of the series is February 20 with Sonic Escape (Maria Millar, violin and Shawn Wyckoff, flute) at St. Andrew's, followed by the replacements. No not the rock band, but in this case the Hog Town Brass is replacing the previously announced Royal Hamilton Light Infantry band (it's is a military unit and the government isn't letting them perform in public yet) for March 27th's concert at the Opera House. The final concert is May 1 with the Toronto All Star Big Band. If you get your season tickets now, there will be just enough time to catch the series opener with Sinfonia Toronto before the 30 day viewing window closes.