

October 2, 2009

Theatre Orangeville Youth Singers to perform a special song at Torch Relay celebration.

It will be an emotional moment when the Theatre Orangeville Youth Singers (TOYS) perform a Torch Relay-inspired song on December 28th at the Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre in Orangeville.

The song, written by Scott White of Toronto specifically for Orangeville's Torch Relay celebration, and the performance by the TOYS, is so moving that CTV plans to feature it in a documentary entitled, "This Great Land: Canada Welcomes the Torch", to air October 24 at 8 p.m. The initial rehearsal was photographed on September 1 and the CTV crew returns on October 6 to capture the performance in a more polished state to show the progress of rehearsals.

The Theatre Orangeville Youth Singers, in their 16th year, expect to have 55 children, ages 8-14, singing for the Olympic Torch Relay event. Under the direction of Joy Bell, Joan Borden and Susan Cooper, the choir started their once-a-week rehearsals on September 8, welcoming 44 new members.

In 1997, the T.O.Y.S. auditioned and won the opportunity to perform with Donny Osmond in "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat" in Toronto at the Elgin Theatre. The choir also sang for the Queen during her Silver Jubilee visit in Toronto. Each year the choir has had the opportunity to sing in Theatre Orangeville's Mainstage Christmas production. This year they will be divided into three different choir groupings to sing in "A Christmas Story". Their annual costumed, choreographed show will be held at the end of May 2010.

Members of the Theatre Orangeville Youth Singers will also sing the national anthem as part of the Torch Relay celebration on December 28, along with a few students from Ecole elementaire Orangeville. "They will be singing a two-part version of 'O Canada' and incorporating a few lines in French.

"We are very honoured to be part of this historic event," said director Joy Bell.

The song that was created for the Torch Relay show by Scott White, a Toronto-based composer, musical director and actor, is entitled "Shine Your Light Upon The World". Scott has worked on shows nationally and internationally and he always takes a great deal of pride in being Canadian. Mr. White worked in the Athletes Village during the Calgary Olympics and he'll always remember watching athletes from around the world joining Bryan Adams on stage at a private concert held for them.

"People who were competing against each other, (some whose countries were at war with other countries represented at the games) were now linked arm in arm singing lyrics in English and celebrating simply being together. For that moment in time for those people and the people watching,

**SHINE YOUR LIGHT
UPON THE WORLD**

Canada
Oh Canada

There's a flame that burns eternal
With a warmth that will not fade
There's a flame that burns in spite of
wind or snow.

It's the spirit of our people
It's the spirit of our land
It's the flame inside our hearts,
Let it grow.

Let your light shine through the
darkness
Let it shine across the land
Share the flame of peace with others
Let it travel hand to hand
Share your hopes, your dreams, your
courage
Share the strength you have inside
Shine your light upon the world
Let it shine

Canada
Oh Canada

From the peaks of rocky mountains
Past the open prairie fields
Let the flame you carry reach the
northern sky
Past the lakes and past the forests
To the ocean's rugged coast
Share your light with every person you
pass by

Let your light shine through for
Canada
Let it shine across the land
Share the flame of peace with others
Let it travel hand to hand
Share your hopes, your dreams, your
courage
Share the strength you have inside
Shine your light upon the world
Let it shine

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Shine your light upon the world

Let it shine
Let it shine
Let it shine

the games had achieved their ultimate intent - to create a spirit of friendly competition, peace, and a world without borders, politics or war. On that night the world became a smaller and better place.”

Asked by a representative of Theatre Orangeville about a song the choir could sing for the Torch Relay ceremony, Mr. White stepped right up to the challenge and created a song.

“I have a special connection to the TOYS choir,” Mr. White says, noting that Theatre Orangeville produced "The Giant's Garden", a musical co-written by myself and Peter Fenton, two seasons ago. The show involved not only young leads from the community, but also had songs for the entire TOYS choir to sing. I did musical direction on the show, and I was moved by the commitment of the choir masters, the devotion of the children, and the magic they brought to every performance. The TOYS are really a top-notch vocal group.”

Mr. White saw the Torch Relay event as an opportunity to give back to the community, in the form of a song. The image of the flame was the starting point. “I started thinking about what it was about being Canadian that made me proud. I have travelled and performed all across the country. It is geographically varied, and the people are amazingly resilient. In the winter, this is a land of cold, and yet Canadians approach the winter with humour, determination and strength. It struck me that what makes Canada such a wonderful place to live is the spirit of the people. The Canadian people have hopes, dreams and they have courage. We are a nation of peace and a nation that the world looks upon with wonder as they see a rich multi-cultural heritage and wealth and resources beyond imagining. These were the images that I worked from for the lyrics. As Canadians we carry that spirit of peace in our hearts and now is the time to let it shine for all to see, and to share that light with the world.”

Musically, he wanted the piece to be an anthem, with lots of fast running passages underneath the words, expressing the movement of the runners who carry the torch across the land. The result was “Shine Your Light Upon The World”.

For more information on Theatre Orangeville and the affiliated youth programs visit www.theatreorangeville.ca. For more information on Scott White go to www.thegiantsgarden.com/scottwhite. For information on Orangeville’s Olympic Torch Relay celebration visit www.orangeville.ca.