

# November 17th Fundraiser Concert

submitted by Julia Jacklein - Julia Jacklein is a piano teacher, composer, choral musician and visual artist.

## Fundraiser Concert for New Stage a Great Success

On Saturday evening, the much-anticipated fundraiser concert for Barrie's new stage at Bethel Community Church came off with great success. A diverse group of professional and amateur musicians generously gave of their time and talent to make this event a success. The concert was well attended, and Bruce Owen, who has worked tirelessly to organize both the renovation of the stage, and the fundraiser event, announced that thanks to many generous donations, the \$23,000 renovations have now been paid for. The news was met with enthusiastic applause, and the stage was set for an evening of great music.



First to perform were trumpeter Guy Few and Pianist Stephanie Mara with Jean Hubeau's *Sonata for Trumpet and Piano*, featuring a beautiful combination of virtuosic and more introspective elements. Few livened things up with some quirky personal anecdotes that prompted chuckles throughout the audience.



Next up were the famous Penderecki String Quartet, joined by Few and Mara, with bassist Ian Slade, in *Saint-Saëns' septet Op. 65* for this unique combination of instruments. This composition makes beautiful use of the trumpet, and its dense texture and complex piano part gives the music an orchestral feel at times. The musicians' evident enjoyment of the music made this performance a double treat.



Pianist Dmitri Levkovich left the audience breathless with a stunning display of technical prowess in a Horowitz arrangement of Franz Liszt's *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2* and an original arrangement of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. Levkovich will be back on February 10 for Barrie's annual Pianofest, together with pianist Agnė Radzevičiūtė, in a not-to-be-missed performance of music by Chopin, Schubert, Mendelssohn and other composers.



After the intermission, singer Patricia O'Callaghan and pianist Robert Koortgard gave a delightful performance of works by Edith Piaf, Kurt Weill and Leonard Cohen; O'Callaghan called on the audience to sing along in the refrain of Cohen's *Hallelujah*, and the church sanctuary was filled with the quiet beauty of Cohen's famous song.





This was followed by Rachmaninoff's well-known *Vocalise*, compellingly played by the Penderecki String Quartet's Katie Schlaikjer and Stephanie Mara.



Barrie's own Lyrica Choir was last on the program with *Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal* and the haunting Irish folk song *Johnny, I Hardly Knew Ye*, both arranged by Alice Parker, as well as Stephen Paulus' *The Road Home*. Guy Few joined forces with Lyrica accompanist Brent Mayhew and the choir and in Handel's uplifting *Hallelujah* chorus, closing the concert on a joyful note.

As the audience filed out, the general atmosphere of enthusiasm was clearly felt, and appreciative comments were many. This was certainly an evening to be remembered, and music lovers and musicians alike may look forward to many a future concert on the stage at Bethel Community Church.