

# Talk

WEEKLY GUIDE TO ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT  
IN THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS



**INSIDE**  
Shocking  
3D  
classics  
see Page 8



**INSIDE**  
Your  
bitter,  
crazy ex  
see Page  
15

## Not Mozart again! That's so tired

*How about the theme from  
Dragon Heart?*

By Thomas Ledwell  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT

Who said orchestral music has to rely on the likes of Mozart or Bach? Sherbrooke's Film Music Orchestra is trying to explode the notion that classically trained musicians have to play classical music.

When the orchestra takes the stage at the University of Sherbrooke's Centre culturel on Monday, the repertoire will include scores from classics of the silver screen.

"It's never played. Nobody plays this music in concerts," said Lise Bellehumeur, the ensemble's director and founder. "We will never play the Fifth of Beethoven or something else like that. We have the mission to make sure this wonderful music, from the movies, is known and played."

Monday's performance will highlight music from such films as Star Wars, Dragon Heart, and a collection of Disney movies. The sheet music isn't always readily available, but members of the orchestra listen to the original sound tracks and transcribe much of the music they perform, said Bellehumeur.

She said she first had thoughts of building an ensemble around music from films a decade ago. The orchestra came together two years ago.

"I had a bunch of people who believed in this kind of orchestra. They went and grabbed musicians from all areas of Sherbrooke," she said, adding the group now boasts a total of 88 members.

Viola player Catherine Nadon joined the group last fall. Like many in the orchestra, Nadon learned her instrument performing Beethoven and Mozart concertos.

After more than 20 years of performing, she said she was losing interest. The orchestra's repertoire has reinvigorated her love of music.

"Classical music, after two or three times, it's like, 'Okay, we did the same concerto five years ago and it's still the same thing.' Now everything is new. It's a breath of fresh air," said Nadon, admitting songs from the Disney films are her



PLEASE SEE MOVIE MUSIC ON PAGE 4 A bit of movie music magic...

## MOVIE MUSIC:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

favourites. "Even when you're practicing your sheet music, you're enjoying it."

Nadon said the orchestra offers a different way of listening to, and performing, music. It's a method that has caught the attention of musicians of all ages across the city. Many of those in the string section are teenagers, while those in the rest of the ensemble are between 25 and 65.

"I see students of mine playing in the same orchestra as me. Some 15 years of age difference," said Nadon, who, by day, teaches at Alexander Galt Regional High School.

"It's a great opportunity for them and for us. It makes us feel younger."

Bellehumeur said there's also a hidden magic in music from films that, for audiences of all description, sets it apart from traditional classical music.

"The difference is they already know

this music. They heard it, and they never knew it. They were watching the movie and the story. When they hear this music, they say, 'I know that. I know that.'"

When the Film Music Orchestra takes the stage, Bellehumeur doesn't leave it to the audience members' imaginations to conjure up images of the original films. Fight scenes, romantic interludes, and pivotal moments from the films are projected on screens in the theatre, while other elements are thrown in to add to the entertainment.

"We have lights, special effects, a big screen with bits of the movies that we are playing, we have singers, choreographers, and dancers. We have everything. It's not a concert, it's a show," said Bellehumeur.

Sherbrooke's Film Music Orchestra will perform at the Centre culturel at the University of Sherbrooke on Monday, May 14 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20.