

I'd Like to Introduce You to... the Band

At its *Soul II* concert, the Peterborough Singers will welcome not only the vocal and acting talent of Aadin Church and Divine Brown and the engaging personality of MC Megan Murphy but also a great, great band.

I'd like to introduce you to these versatile and first-rate musicians. So here they are, in no particular order.

Rob Phillips has been performing on the piano in our area for the past 30 years. A student of the great Brian Browne, Phillips was awarded a scholarship to study jazz and classical piano at the University of Alabama. After formal studies, he began teaching, performing, and recording with many well-known musicians, such as the Rick Fines Trio, the Chelsey Bennett Band, Beau Dixon, Ada Lee, Bridget Foley, Ronnie Hawkins, the Lemon Sisters, and the Weber Brothers.

Barry Haggarty, guitar player par excellence, has performed with the best in the business, including Ronnie Hawkins, Ronnie Prophet, the Family Brown, Lucille Starr (remember "Quand Le Soleil Dit Bonjour Aux Montagnes"?), and Shania Twain. Haggarty was nominated for three years running from 1990 to 1992 as "Guitar Player of the Year" by the Canadian Country Music Association. He is the owner of the Haggarty Sound Studio, which he opened in 1991.

Haggarty is joined by Andrew Affleck, a five-time nominee for "Bassist of the Year." Affleck, like Phillips, has studied music formally—nine years at the Ontario Conservatory of Music and privately with John Gowan of the Toronto Symphony. But, more important, he is currently one of the most sought after bassists in Canada for recording and live performance work.

On drums, we have working drummer and drum instructor Curtis Cronkwright. He's a favourite with the Peterborough Singers, especially with those of us who are unused to singing jazz, funk, or R&B. "I don't sweat the rhythms," I heard one chorister say at last Wednesday's rehearsal. "Curtis will keep us on track!"

And of course for a "soul" concert there has to be brass. Steve McCracken, the leader of The Channel Cats, is on saxophone. A gifted player, McCracken is also a talented arranger and composer—he's created the charts for most of the music the Singers will perform at *Soul II*. Over his 40 years of performance, he's played with Stevie Ray Vaughan, Downchild Blues Band, Spirit of the West, Mud Bay Blues Band, and Third World.

Joining McCracken will be Kevin Cook on trombone and Doug Sutherland on trumpet. After graduating from Western University with a degree in musical performance, Cook began playing with orchestras and concert bands across Ontario, when he could take time away from the private instruction he offers. Sutherland currently plays trumpet for the Peterborough Symphony and is a regular, along with Paul Otway, at Singers' concerts—ever since he nailed that challenging trumpet solo in "Penny Lane" at the choir's Beatles tribute!



Some members of the band performing at the Singers' first "soul" concert

With such an array of talent on offer, *Soul II* is a concert not to be missed.