



Woodlawn music teacher Dale Hay conducts grade five and six students in recording a demo CD of the musical *The Moral of the Story*.

Rock musical on virtues submitted for publication

by Doris Penner

ALTHOUGH teacher Dale Hay is on holidays and in summer mode, this doesn't mean she has left school behind entirely. A music teacher at Woodlawn School in Steinbach, Hay is finalizing a project that consumed much of her energy over the last year—writing and performing a musical with grade five and six classes. The step she has decided to take is to submit it for publication.

"What I need to do is write a synopsis of the story and make some minor revisions," says Hay. She notes her son-in-law John Paul Peters, who worked with her on writing the music, doing the instrumentation and recording it digitally, has to do the final mastering.

"We should be ready with the demo CD about mid-August," Hay suggests. The musical, *The Moral of the Story*, was performed in May for the community with very positive reviews.

"There was good reception from the audiences—and the kids loved it," says Hay of the production which features rock 'n roll style music with a "little punk rock and a little country and western."

The idea for the story line came to Hay—who has written other musicals for her classes—after becoming acquainted with the philosophy of Michele Borba, an internationally renowned educator and award-winning author recognized for her practical strategies to strengthen a child's behaviour, self-esteem and social development.

One of her books, *Building Moral Intelligence*, has been used by schools across North America in formulating strategies for student behaviour in the classroom and playground. "Moral intelligence" is defined as "the capacity to understand right from wrong, to have strong ethical convictions and to act on them so one behaves in the right and honourable way."

Hay built scenes around the essential virtues which Borba considers critical—which include self-control, respect, kindness, tolerance, fairness, empathy and conscience. The play opens with an old man leaving a book on the school playground which teaches right from wrong because he is concerned about the way the kids are



John Paul Peters helped with music composition and recording.

behaving.

Each scene then deals with a problem—for example, bullying, dishonesty, intolerance—with the students involved seeing the light and changing their ways.

"In a way it's like one big sermon," Hay smiles. "It's Christian without being preachy."

Hay involved all 150 students in grades five and six in singing and choreography, and spread out the speaking roles among 48 pupils.

Both Hay and Peters have had extensive musical experience. Hay has written or arranged numerous musical productions in the last 15 years teaching music in Winnipeg and Steinbach. Peters operates High North Records, a recording studio 35 miles north of Winnipeg.

Last fall, Hay began sketching the melody lines for each scene of the musical and Peters filled in the harmonies and added instrumentation, including live guitar, some tambourine and digital instruments.

"The music is jazzy—it has to be appealing to kids," says Hay. "John Paul was the key to writing this type of

music."

Hay notes she sent an e-mail to Michele Borba outlining the content of the musical and received affirmation from the acclaimed educator. Hay's dream is that Borba might use parts of the musical in his presentations on moral intelligence.

With many schools tuned in to the idea of moral intelligence and the essential virtues, Hay is confident that if *The Moral of the Story* were published, there would be a market for it.

If publishing companies aren't interested at this time, Hay at least knows her students enjoyed practising and performing it, and learned some valuable lessons about relating to their classmates.

Today's conflicts are often from within, Dallaire says

by Anne Cote

SENATOR Romco Dallaire has a vision for Winnipeg. In a world battered by war, he is working to stop the carnage.

Dallaire shared his vision with 150 Liberal supporters at a party fundraising function last week. He came because he was invited. He came to build support for human rights. He came to tell the devastating story of what happens to people when the world looks away.

"I'm anticipating making Winnipeg more and more the centre for human rights in this country. We need more focus on it. I have a two-year project on child soldiers and we're running a workshop here at the end of August using the offices at the University of Winnipeg," the former United Nations Force commander in Rwanda told reporters.

Senator Dallaire said he's invited non-government organizations (NGOs) from various countries, former child soldiers and commandos to come together in at the University of Winnipeg at the end of August to work towards a solution to the problem of children being forced, or coerced, into fighting in military conflicts around the world.

More and more, Dallaire explained, conflict is between factions within the same country. Civilian war casualties are mounting and they're not the result of major military events, they're about people killing their own people for power, because of inexplicable hatreds, and even disrespect for

human life.

He drew parallels between the political situation which led to the genocide in Rwanda in 1996 and the conflict which recently erupted between Israel and Lebanon, or more precisely the Lebanese faction, Hezbollah.

"The parallels are conflict due to power, due to borders, due to ethnicity, due to frictions. And it's absolutely incredible that such exceptionally well educated people find it impossible to come to solutions," Dallaire exclaimed.

When moderate people can't develop solutions, extremists prevail. Dallaire witnessed the result first hand. Rwandan extremists developed a cutting edge solution to gain power. Quite simply, they set out to annihilate an entire ethnic community...and there was no one there to stop them.

According to Dallaire, a retired lieutenant-general in the Canadian army, today's world conflicts defy reason. Armies utilize rape as a tactical weapon. Adults teach children how to kill. People kill indiscriminately.

And the UN can't intervene. "Intervention means fighting your way in," Dallaire explained. The only way the UN can step into a conflict is if both sides invite it in to help support a peace process, or at least a cessation of hostilities.

Dallaire, shaking his head, said, "I don't see any country that sees the value of going in there (Lebanon) and

being the third belligerent in what's already a very complex situation. They certainly wouldn't be able to get there early enough to do anything."

Asked what the worst case scenario is in a war, Dallaire snapped, "It's already happening." The number of civilian casualties in modern wars equals or exceeds the military casualties, he added.

The man with the flashing blue eyes emphasized the urgency of developing a solution. The world can't keep operating in this catastrophic warlike environment, he stated. "There are situations where no matter what you do, they keep on fighting."

From his devastating experience in Rwanda, Dallaire developed what he believes is an answer to the constant flare-ups around the globe. He proposes politicians and diplomats take on the task of establishing Canada as a middle power.

Not the biggest power, just the best communicator, because, in Dallaire's estimation, communication provides a solid basis for countering the violence which threatens to envelope the world. His plan calls for increased efforts in regional development and the creation of ties with ethnic groups, nations and small countries around the world.

"We've got to shift how we look at things like the environment, security," Dallaire warned. "This is the era of world disorder."

(Anne Cote is a freelance journalist.)

acwriter@mts.net

Pioneer Days packed with activities

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Farm-related contests will be conducted on three afternoons—nail driving and log sawing at the sawmill, bag tying at the windmill and watermelon eating at the restaurant. A cutting horse show is scheduled for Saturday at 1 p.m. with a gymkhana horse show Monday at 11 a.m. Horse-drawn wagon rides are available daily for most of the afternoon for \$1 a person starting at the housebarn.

Under the big tent
Every day features concerts un-

der the big tent. On Friday at 1 p.m., Veggie Tales Band and One in Spirit will be on stage, while on Saturday at 2 p.m., children's entertainers Aunt Maddy and Mr. Artist Man will perform. At 3 p.m., folksinger Christine Schumann is the artist followed at 4 p.m. by Stone River Band. *Knakzoat* is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sunday with a *Saengerfest* (old-fashioned song festival) to take place at 3 p.m.

On Monday, concerts will be presented by singer/songwriter Katelyn

Dawn at 1 p.m. and again at 4 p.m., fiddler Sierra Noble at 2 p.m., trio Gabi Gallo, Kate Smith and Melissa Smith at 4 p.m. and Wood Knots featuring fiddler Logan Pictou at 5 p.m.

On Sunday a worship service will begin at the Old Colony Church at 11 a.m. On three mornings, Saturday at 11 a.m. and Sunday and Monday at 11:30 a.m., there will be a video review of film maker Otto Klassen's work in the village centre auditorium.

Another special event at Pioneer Days is a launch of the book *Laina* by Betty Barkman, on Monday at 2:30 p.m.

In addition to concerts especially for kids, other children's activities are a petting zoo and various games and contests each afternoon.

Visitors will also wish to browse at the hayrack sale, sponsored by MHV Ladies Auxiliary all weekend. This is a giant garage sale located at the food booth.

Food is a highlight for many people at Pioneer Days. The Livery Barn Restaurant will be open all weekend serving traditional Russian Mennonite cuisine such as *Borscht*, *Vereniki*, *Pluma Mous*, farmer sausage and *Platz*.

Heart-shaped waffles with cream sauce as well as watermelon and *Rollkuchen* will be available at the short order booth along with hamburgers, hot dogs, and ice cream. A special treat will be corn on the cob served at the steam shelter.

Village hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Monday. Sunday hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Regular admission applies for Pioneer Days.

Friday allows visitors to enter with a toonie if they pick up coupons at any Clearspring mall store.

Crowds please organizers

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Todd credited the Big M Trail Riders for creating the well-received attraction; the group also went on a trail ride and rode into Morris during the stampede opening kick-off last Wednesday night. (In addition, riders went on a 40-mile trail ride to celebrate the Manitoba Stampede's 40th anniversary three years ago).

Also going over quite well was the return of the formal grand entry, featuring Miss Rodeo Canada 2006 Aleaha More flying the Canadian flag and rodeo flag.

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"Any rodeo out West has a formal grand entry," said Todd, who moved to Morris from Calgary and is something of a rodeo aficionado.

This was Todd's first year as the Valley Agricultural Society's general manager, shoes she stepped into when previous general manager Chris Jorgenson died suddenly last December.

"It was a great first year; there is an awesome group of volunteers here who can be thanked for making everything go so well."

Todd, who previously worked in fund-raising for the Town of Morris, said it was evident the successful event gave her entire community a lift.

"For business owners during the flood (in early May), this place was like a ghost town, but a good successful stampede like this boosted the economic standpoint of every business in our town."

The Carillon

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Friendship Festival slated for Landmark

THE first annual Landmark Friendship Festival will take place on Saturday, Aug. 12.

The festival will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a free pancake breakfast and conclude in the evening with fireworks and music. All activities take place at the Landmark Park.

After breakfast, a parade—beginning at 10:30 a.m.—will wind its way along Main Street from McNaught Motors in the north to the park.

The Niverville Credit Union will serve hot dogs and pop for lunch as part of its annual customer appreciation event. During the noon hour, there will be performances by aboriginal hoop dancers and square dancers. Dave Verinder and his band will also entertain.

The afternoon will be devoted to various games and contests both for children and adults. Kids can

enjoy inflatable play structures and a petting zoo while adults can take part in a dunk tank, bingo and a watermelon eating contest. At 4:30 p.m. teams will challenge each other in a tug-of-war.

A pork barbecue dinner for \$5 will be offered at around 5 p.m. At 7 p.m. there will be a gospel concert while Daryl Marsch and his band will take to the stage at 8 p.m. to play classic rock and country music for a dance.

Fireworks are scheduled for 10:30 p.m. Following this, the band Ripperz which will play until 1 a.m. All sound is donated by Summer Studios.

Anyone wishing to take part in the parade may call Cheryl Termeer at 355-4277 while those interested in taking part in the tug-of-war can call Murray Plett at 355-4657.

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