



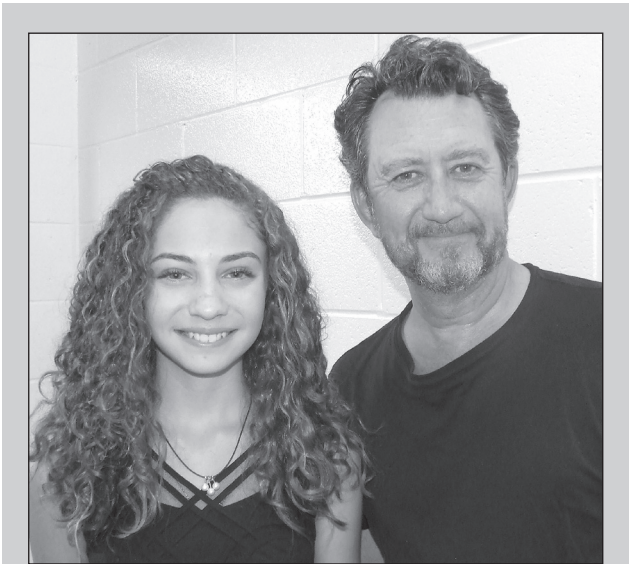
Jazz group Countermeasure, from Toronto, was one of the performances to hit the stage during the South Coast Jazz event held Saturday at Port Dover arena. They are an a cappella group known for their upbeat sound, sophisticated harmonies and infectious energy. Their debut album I 4 Characters was available for purchase at the event.

# South Coast Jazz a hit with jazz lovers

By Heather Walters

ON a sweltering Saturday (August 15), perhaps the coolest place to be in Port Dover was the arena – and not because of the ice pad. It's gone for the summer.

It was because some of the best jazz musicians in the business were performing on stage there.



Avery Raquel, a 13 year old from the Brantford area, made her debut appearance in Port Dover, along with arranger-producer-pianist Lou Pomanti, who accompanied her on the piano.

In an interview with the Maple Leaf, Avery says she has been singing since she was 3 or 4. A couple of years ago her dad introduced her to a Ray Charles version of Over the Rainbow, and she was hooked.

"I like jazz because an artist can take liberties with the music, change it up and make it original."

This young performer has a CD coming out in October entitled 'Life Lessons', which she is currently recording in Oakville. Just entering grade 9 in September this young protégé says her goal is Broadway.

Lou Pomanti is the producer-arranger and pianist for Oakland Stroke, who also performed throughout the event.

South Coast Jazz organizer Juliann Kuchocki was pleased to report that the evening event was sold out, in part due to evening headliner Holly Cole.

The afternoon session (from 11 to 5), open to all ages, featured a line-up of musicians that included, on the Jazzin Juniors stage, the Simcoe Composite School Jazz Band, Gene Dinovi and Neil Swainson as well as many other jazz favourites that entertained all afternoon.

The evening got underway with the heavyweights Brass Band, followed by performance after musical performance by Jazz notables. Avery Raquel, a 13-year-old from Brantford, blew the audience away with her naturally powerful voice.

The evening's high point was the appearance of Holly Cole, a performer well known to jazz enthusiasts.

Patrons of the event seemed to be enjoying themselves immensely. The event was licensed, featuring several Norfolk County wineries. Gator BBQ cooked up tantalizing dishes for both sit down dining inside the arena or take-out.

The arena itself was almost unrecognizable, transformed by dark blue draperies, muted lighting, linen covered chairs and tables, with a large well lit stage and sound system.



Juno nominated Jazz artists Cadence kept the audience's toes tapping with several a cappella versions of popular songs. Their motto is quite fitting – 'Instruments are for Doctors!'

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