

MARKET MUSINGS

By Jan Freedman

The closing of the outdoor season of the Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair marks the beginning of the indoor season at the Aurora Cultural Centre.

The first of these indoor markets will be this Saturday, November 23, from 10 am - 2 pm. As I have mentioned previously, we will be entertained at this Market by Janine Fernandes, singing and playing the harp. She was born in Stouffville and moved to Aurora when she was two years old.

Her Mother, Sue Walmer, is an accountant and is also the Executive Director of the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust. She has one brother, Mark, who is pursuing studies in quality control engineering.

Janine attended Highview Public School and then Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School. She is now taking online classes through the York Region District School Board in preparation for entry to university.

While in school, Janine's favourite subjects were music, vocals, drama, English and psychology.

During high school, she sang in both her church choir and school choir, and participated in theatre and musical productions. She also volunteered as a youth reporter for Rogers TV and in environmental activities in the Town of Aurora.

Janine has earned a number of awards for her achievements: a National Fair Delegate at the Historica Fair in 2008; Rookie Actor of the Year at G.W. Williams in 2010; the Ontario Sears Drama Festival Award of Excellence as Best Actress in 2010; and the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Individual Youth Achievement and the Young Heritage Leaders Scholarship in 2008.

Janine has been involved in music from a very young age. She wrote her first song as soon as she could write. She has taken music classes all throughout both elementary and high school, both vocal and instrumental. She plays the piano, flute and guitar, but her first love is the harp.

She first saw the harp when she attended concerts of the York Symphony Orchestra as a little girl with her mom. She thought that the harp was a beautiful and haunting instrument and wanted to learn to play it. Sue said that if she still wanted to learn to play the harp when she was 16 years old, that they would find her a teacher and Janine's love affair with the harp blossomed.

Janine began with a purple lap harp, but has since moved to a lever harp (as opposed to a concert harp). It is an Ogden Harp which she has named Olga. The decision of which harp to choose is a very personal one since the instrument rests against your body when you play and has to feel right.

Harpers are very delicate instruments and when they travel, they must be in canisters and transported in temperature controlled trucks. Janine loves many genres of music, from Pink, Rihanna, Jann Arden and the Beatles to Loreena McKennit. In fact, she is a huge fan of Loreena McKennit and counts her as a major musical inspiration. While she loves to play Celtic music on her harp, she also likes to adapt popular music. She also loves to sing while she plays and wants to spread the joy and magic of music in general and the harp in particular to as many people as possible.

She plans to go into the field of child and youth therapy with an emphasis on music therapy. Until she goes to university, Janine has been enjoying working full-time as a nanny for an Aurora family.

Janine will be playing and singing at the first Indoor Market at the Cultural Centre every hour on the hour, for approximately half an hour each set. She will be set up in the hall upstairs so that her music can be heard by as many people as possible.

We are so excited that we are able to introduce Aurorans to this extremely talented young person. So, be sure to plan to attend the Indoor Market this Saturday.

The following are some of the vendors who have confirmed that they will be at the first Indoor Market of the year this coming Saturday, November 23. While this list is accurate at the time of writing, please keep in mind that, in life, unforeseen circumstances occasionally occur.

Many of your favourite vendors from the outdoor market will be there including 3 farmers?19th Avenue Farm, Oakridge's Finest, and John Snowden and his meat products. Green River Coffee will be there as will John Abraham and his fair trade products.

Other food vendors include Catharina's Kitchen, Family Kitchen, Toscana Bakery, Rustic Bread Sasha's Sweets, Nicole's Cakes, Nutmeg Baked Goods, Sassy Chameleon and Jan's Country Pantry with jams and chutneys. There will also be a wide variety of artisans including L&H Wood products, KIBO soaps, Eurasia Jewellery, Nancy and Eva and their hand crafted bags, Green Leaf Designs, Carrie's Creations and Elderberry Boutique.

Kind Organics is coming along with Knot Just a Scarf and there will be a couple of new vendors too. We are excited to begin our

indoor season and this year, for the first time, we will be located on two floors. There will be lots of wonderful products to tempt you, including some which would make excellent Christmas gifts, so be sure to come and visit us at the Aurora Cultural Centre. See you at the Indoor market!