



**COMING TO OAKVILLE:** The Canadian Tenors are, from left, Fraser Walters, Remigio Pereira, Victor Micallef and Peter McCutcheon.

## Canadian Tenors Christmas concert

*New quartet performs at the Oakville Centre Dec. 16*

■ By **Krissie Rutherford**  
OAKVILLE BEAVER STAFF

Some of the country's best young tenors are putting on *An Unforgettable Christmas Evening* at the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts.

The group, which is made up of Remigio Pereira, Fraser Walters, Peter McCutcheon and Victor Micallef, will be giving some of the concert's proceeds to Oakville-based KidsFest Canada, which is dedicated to putting an end to child poverty in Canada.

Christmas favourites and other tunes ranging from romance and folk to contemporary Canadian classics are on tap for the Dec. 16 concert.

"We've had people come up after shows and say, I've paid \$500 to hear Pavarotti, and I would way rather hear these guys," the group's founder, Jill Ann Siemens, said in a phone interview from Belleville following a recent performance. "They're absolutely amazing. People say it's like hearing four Josh Grobans on stage at once."

The group was assembled and started touring in September after a seven-month cross-country casting call to find Canada's top four young tenors.

"Every country in the world has its tenor group, but there was no Canadian Tenors," said Siemens, an award-winning composer. "One of the reasons why I wanted to create a Canadian Tenor ensemble was to, in part, share Canada's extraordinary musical talent with the world."

It was while accepting a music award in Ireland that Siemens decided to take the

plunge and start the group herself.

"I heard the Celtic Tenors there and they inspired me, they were just amazing," she said. "So I thought, I'm going to come back and find the top four tenors in Canada."

Since the group has assembled, other big names have jumped on board to form what Siemens now dubs "The Dream Team," including managers of Guess Who, Lorne Saifer and Gilles Paquin, and Josh Groban's international agent, Barry Garber.

The tenors themselves are made up of four distinct voices, Siemens says, each offering a unique dimension to the group.

Walters, 27, was a member of the multi-Grammy-Award-winning a cappella group, Chanticleer, and recently played Haldir in the world premier of Toronto's *The Lord of the Rings* before being recruited to The Canadian Tenors.

Of his reason for joining the group, Walters said, "I want to help create something which is distinctly Canadian, showcasing everything from French-Canadian folk music to East Coast sea shanties."

Micallef, 33, arguably has the most operatic voice of the group, Siemens says.

A former member of the ensemble of the Canadian Opera Company, he also spent four years with an opera company in Florence, Italy.

McCutcheon has starred in productions on Broadway and in Toronto, including *Forever Plaid*, *Jane Eyre*, *Phantom of the Opera* and more. He's also the producer and star of his own Toronto-based concert series.

Pereira, 32, adds a new

dimension to the group, having had a varied career as a rock and roll and opera singer, a classical guitarist and a composer.

"When they all sing together, they're just unbelievable," said Siemens. "It's a very exciting group."

And, she notes, the talent isn't the only reason to come to a Canadian Tenors concert. Some of the proceeds support a worthy cause - KidsFest Canada.

"Nobody knows about it, and that's why I chose it. It's an incredibly important organization to support, especially around Christmas," said Siemens. "We want to give a generous donation to KidsFest Canada, so the more tickets we sell, the more we can give."

The Canadian Tenors will also be giving a portion of CD sales - the group's debut CD is set to be released in the spring of 2007 - to KidsFest Canada. They're currently in Sweden to start recording the album with producers Quiz and Larossi, who recently produced an album with Il Divo, and have also worked with stars including Celine Dion and Diana Ross.

The Canadian Tenors will begin an international tour in 2008. For more, visit [www.canadiantenors.com](http://www.canadiantenors.com)

For tickets to the Dec. 16 concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts, 130 Navy St., call the box office at 905-815-2021.

For more on KidsFest Canada, visit [www.kidsfestcanada.com](http://www.kidsfestcanada.com).

— Krissie Rutherford can be reached by e-mail at [krutherford@oakvillebeaver.com](mailto:krutherford@oakvillebeaver.com).

## FACTORY TILE DEPOT

1360 Speers Road, Oakville (East of third line)

905.465.1650 [www.factorytiledepot.ca](http://www.factorytiledepot.ca)

Mon.-Thurs., 9:30-6, Fri. 9:30-5, Sat., 10-5, Closed Sun.

11,000 SQ. FT.  
OF SELECTION,  
SERVICE AND  
QUALITY!



Specializing in  
importing and  
supplying quality  
ceramics,  
porcelain and  
natural stone  
from around the  
world!

# Happy Holidays

**FROM ALL OF US AT  
FACTORY TILE DEPOT!**

*It's not too late to have your  
home ready for the Holidays*

**WE IMPORT AND STOCK  
AN EXTENSIVE  
COLLECTION OF CERAMICS,  
PORCELAINS,  
TRAVERTINES, GLASS,  
MOSAICS, SLATE, GRANITE,  
MARBLE AND ALL  
INSTALLATION MATERIALS.**

## CABINET REFACING

With A Lifetime Limited Material Warranty



We can transform your existing cabinets with new doors and laminate in your choice of style & colour. Select complimentary hardware & have the kitchen of your dreams.

**NO PAYMENTS, NO INTEREST FOR 6 MONTHS oac**

**GRANITE**  
transformations

Visit our showroom or call for your **FREE In Home Consultation**

**1313 Speers Road, Oakville • 905-847-8964**

Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm [www.granitetransformations.ca](http://www.granitetransformations.ca)