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Arts/Entertainment

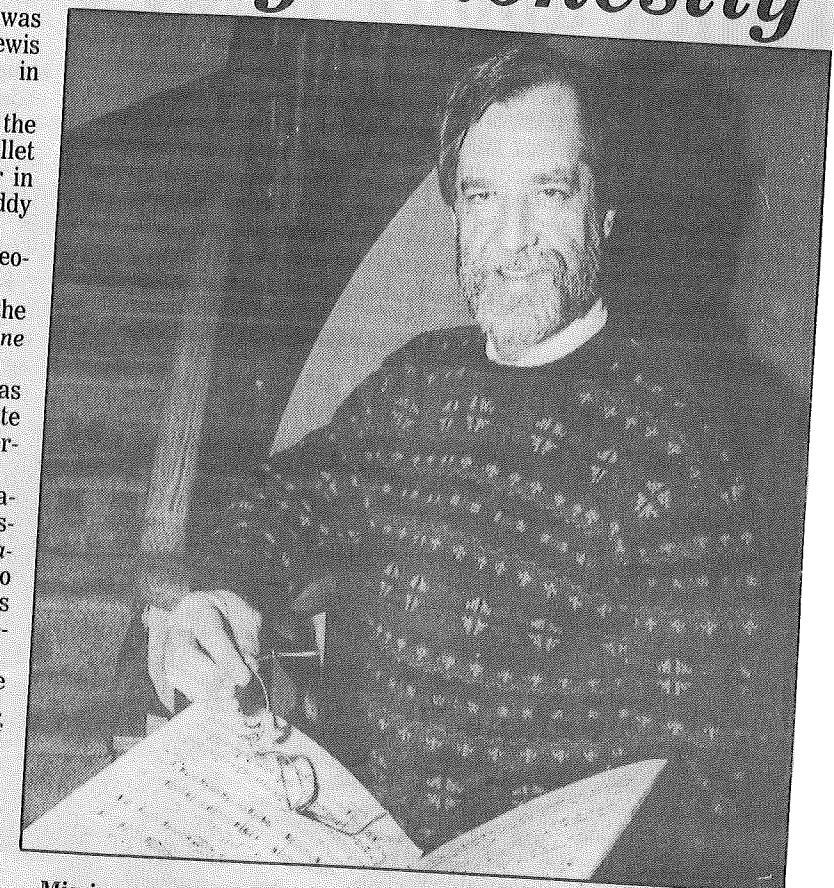
Mississauga musician comes by it honestly

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By SKYE JOHNSTON
Special to *The Mississauga News*
Mississauga composer, trumpet player and high school music teacher Darryl Eaton comes by a music career honestly.
"My father came home with a cornet, stuck it in my hands and said, 'Play this,'" he said.
Eaton went to school with Bobby Hull in Woodstock, Ontario, and remembers, "I preferred hockey until I got smashed in the face. I began to pick up the cornet and I played in lots of local militia bands throughout southwestern Ontario with my father.
"My grandfather was a conductor for the Salvation Army, and one of my great-great-grandfathers from around 100 years ago traded

his horse for a harmonica from a travelling salesman. There has always been a lot of music in our family."
There is a lot of music in this Eaton home as well. His wife, Anita, is also a professional trumpet player and last year was a featured soloist with the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra. (And yes, they will both play at weddings!)
Both the Eaton children also enjoy the musical scene. David, 8, has studied drums for over a year and Ceilidh, 12, has studied piano and dance since she was 5 and plans a return to the piano.
Eaton says trumpeting has traditionally been a royal profession and notes that he has made a living with his trumpet for 30 years.

"I fell off the riser when I was playing during the Jerry Lewis muscular dystrophy telethon in 1959."
Later, he played solo with the National and the Winnipeg Ballet companies, at the World's Fair in Seattle and with headliners Buddy Rich and the Beach Boys.
"The Beach Boys were good people to work for."
Eaton played the trumpet on the soundtrack of a Canadian film, *One White Christmas*.
Between engagements, he was able to complete his undergraduate degree in composition at the Berkeley College of Music in Boston.
One of his compositions was featured in December by the Mississauga Symphony. His work, *Dialogue for Strings*, was written to fulfill his graduation portfolio. This piece is a modern study in subtleties.



Mississauga's Darryl Eaton, a high school music teacher, has performed with the Beach Boys and Buddy Rich. His compositions were recently featured in a performance by the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra.

Photo by David Burnett

"I have extensively studied the music of Bela Bartok," Eaton said. "I like to think in the humblest of ways that what is there is akin to Bartok."
"I have also learned a lot from Charles Ives. He was a true American. One of a kind — a true individual. His first piece was also his graduation piece from Yale (although it was at first rejected by the professors at the time). It is a romantic piece, in the 19th-century tradition, and very different from his later work."
"Ives," Eaton says, "was concerned about the act of creation. I especially enjoy his *Unanswered Question*, a haunting piece, in which one trumpet is asking the question and three flutes answer but there is never an answer."
Even while in Boston Eaton found he was commuting a lot to perform.

"Although I don't regret these experiences, I felt it was time to quit. I'd been on the road with the Air Force and with playing, too. I was tired of the bar scene and found this was no life for a family man."
Eaton returned to Canada. He taught one semester at Humber College and also at the Conservatory of Music. He is now teaching at Mayfield Secondary School.

Eaton wrote a more traditional piece, called *Celebration*, for the opening of the Mississauga Civic Centre for the Mississauga Arts Council.
When asked how much time he spends composing now he said, "Not enough. My time lately has been spent re-orchestrating *Bye Bye Birdie* for the Mayfield high school performance. That has kept me busy."