

Tenor sax Skublics gets high on jazz

You've heard the old saying, "Jack of all trades, master of none." You could probably apply that phrase to Mississauga musician Tom Skublics, though some might argue he's a master of all.

An accomplished saxophonist, Skublics can also make music on the clarinet, flute and piccolo. It's that versatility that makes him a popular guy when it comes to major musical gigs in the area.

The 42-year-old Streetsville resident's talents have been called upon to provide musical accompaniments for major productions like *Crazy For You* at the Royal Alexandria Theatre, *Ragtime* and *Sunset Boulevard* at the Ford Centre for the Performing Arts, *Phantom of the Opera* at the Pantages Theatre and *Miss Saigon* and *Beauty & the Beast* at the Princess of Wales Theatre.

Currently he's part of the ensemble that's doing the music



SKUBLICS

for *Swingstep* at the Ford Centre since Oct. 12.

"I've been playing since the age of 15," said Skublics, who learned clarinet as a member of his Vaughan Rd. Collegiate high school band in Toronto.

"It's exciting to be able to play different styles of music. The versatility keeps things challenging."

Skublics will lend his hand to charity, Nov. 23 at the Living Arts Centre (LAC). He'll be one of three tenor saxes in the Dan Bodanis Band performing be-bop, swing and hot jazz tunes in *High on Jazz!*, in Hammerson Hall at 8 p.m.

The Tuesday-night performance is a fundraiser for Peel Partners for a Drug-Free Community.

Also on tap is the Mississauga Big Band Jazz Ensemble accompanied by noted vibraphonist Peter Appleyard.

As a board of director for Peel Partners, Mississauga resident Bodanis organized the program. His Investors Group company is also providing some of the financial backing. All proceeds will go to Peel Partners.

Skublics used to work as an engineer at Northern Telecom in Brampton but the desire to play music full-time won out.

"I went to music school at Humber College to study perform-



**TOM
MICHIBATA**

ing and writing. I found work quickly."

An old college teacher was the leader of the prestigious Imperial Room orchestra at the swanky Royal York Hotel in Toronto. He needed a flute, piccolo and tenor and baritone sax player. Skublics got the gig and it lasted for two years.

"The highlight was getting to play behind Ella Fitzgerald for two weeks."

Skublics jumped at the chance to

raise money for Peel Partners.

"Dan (Bodanis) and I go back about 15 years. We used to play together in the Chinguacousy Big Band," said Skublics. "It's a great idea. Whatever I can do to stop drug abuse is important to me. I've seen it wreck too many musicians."

Tickets cost \$23. Call 306-6000.