

## Arts & Entertainment

### Obituary

# Musician Steljes enjoyed success with Quartetto Gelato

Accomplished Lorne Park musician Cynthia Louise Steljes was a classically-trained oboist who, along with her husband, formed the popular touring ensemble, Quartetto Gelato.

Steljes died Dec. 29 at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto, surrounded by friends and family. She was 46.

Earlier this year, the musician was diagnosed with malignant pleural mesothelioma, a rare form of cancer associated with asbestos exposure.

While battling the disease, Steljes for several months was unable to play the instrument she deeply loved.

However, prior to the band's appearance last November at the Living Arts Centre (LAC), Steljes' husband, Peter De Sotto, told The News that his wife was finally able to play the

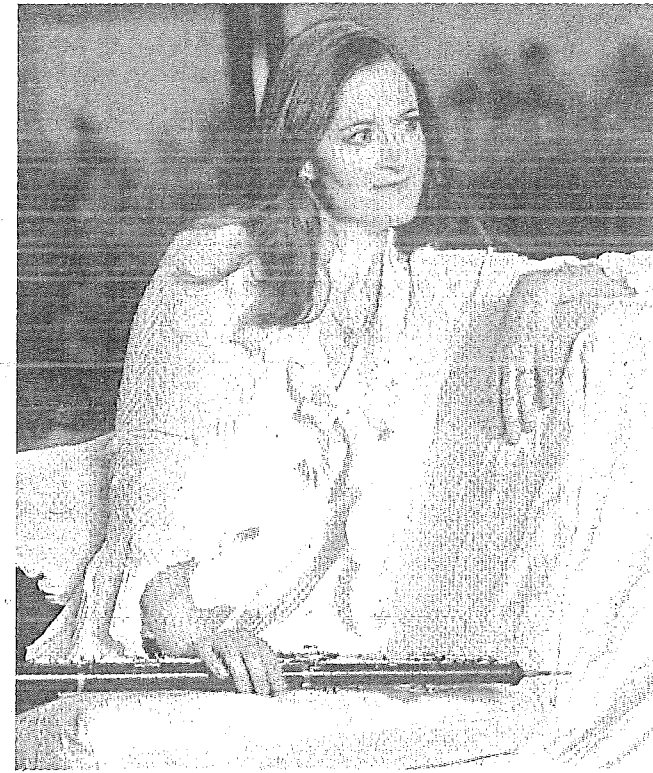
oboe, after an extended hiatus to recuperate from her illness.

"She sounds just the same," an emotional De Sotto told The News at the time. "When I heard her playing, I just ran up the stairs to listen. It was very (moving)."

Studying under teachers such as the University of Ottawa's Rowland Floyd and the University of Michigan's Harry Sargous nurtured a desire in Steljes to help others. She was teaching at the Glenn Gould Professional School in Toronto prior to her illness.

Steljes is survived by her husband, parents John and Ethel, brothers Ian and Alan, and sister Celia.

Funeral services were held Jan. 4 at Cooksville United Church.



**Made her mark** — Cynthia Louise Steljes, who was classically-trained on the oboe, a member of the popular ensemble Quartetto Gelato

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