

Children's chorus to sing song written by one of their own members

By JOANNE CULLEY
Special to The Examiner

*Though we be but children
In uncertain times
Though we be but grains
of sand
On a distant shore
If we are only helping hands
In a thing yet uncreated
We will take all that we are
And sing!*

Those are the opening lines of the poem *though We Be But Children* written by 14-year-old Kathleen Smith last year in response her choir director's request for lyrics for a new song.

When she heard about the challenge, Smith was inspired immediately.

"I sat down to write and the words just flowed out. It was around the time of the U.S. invasion of Iraq and I was thinking of the children there, how they were getting killed through no fault of their own. Sometimes as children, we feel so helpless, but we can make a difference," she said.

Smith is in her third year as a member of the Peterborough Children's Chorus.

Music Director Maureen Harris-Lowe was thrilled with Smith's submission and sent it off to choral composer Mark Sirett. He set the poem to music in four parts, with piano, flute and bass accompaniment. The song will premiere at the choir's upcoming spring concert.

The choir has spent the last few weeks rehearsing the song.

"I really like the music that Mark Sirett has written. I like how the song starts out gently but then becomes fuller as more voices and instruments come in. I'm really looking forward to hearing the instrumental parts, because so far we've been practising with just the piano. I think it's really neat, too that in the future the song will be sung by other children's choirs around the world," Smith said.

Smith likes being part of the



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Peterborough Children's Chorus music director Maureen Harris-Lowe, left, and Kathleen Smith look at published music for Smith's poem *Though We Be But Children*.

Concert facts:

- **What:** Peterborough Children's Chorus Voices of Spring concert.
- **When:** May 1 at 7 p.m. at Murray Street Baptist Church, 175 Water St.
- **Tickets:** Tickets are available at Titles Bookstore, from any choir member or by calling 740-6110.

Peterborough Children's Chorus. She says, "I love singing in the choir and I've made some really good friends there. It's a friendly, sociable group."

Smith is in the Grade 9 integrated arts program at PCVS. In addition to her talents in writing and singing, she is also studying Grade 7 piano and likes visual arts.

"The arts are my passion, but as a career, I think I'd like to be a psychologist, to explore why people think and behave the way they do," Smith says.

The music for "Though We Be But Children" was commissioned with funds provided by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and will premiere at the Peterborough Children's Chorus' Voices of Spring concert on Sunday, May 1.

The song closes,
So perhaps by helping, we ourselves are helped

*We will use our hearts to sing
And our purpose is fulfilled
Though we're only children
Joined together hand in hand
If we use our hearts to sing
We can make a difference in the world.*