

Neighbours of Kleinburg



SEPTEMBER 2018

An exclusive magazine for the residents of Kleinburg, a charming and picturesque village surrounding McMichael Art Gallery, Kortright Centre, Humber River Trails and Copper Creek Golf Course.

*Grenville Pinto -
Bringing Music
to Life*



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Resident Feature

Grenville Pinto - Bringing Music to Life

BY RADYAH KHAN



Grenville Pinto's parents introduced him to the violin when he was seven years old and the rest is history. "G", who often goes by the stage name "G Pinto" is originally from Hamilton where his immediate family still resides and where he spent much of his upbringing. We had the chance to catch up with G about growing up in the GTA and his ties to the Vaughan community.

"I've always loved where I live. I feel like I have family around me at all times, whether they're people I've known for years, actual relatives or people I've connected with through my musical endeavours. My neighbourhood has really made me feel like I'm part of a bigger team."

From his hairdresser who ensures he's always looking top notch, to supportive neighbours and friends, the musician has made some wonderful personal

connections who look out for him as he walks his creative path and is very thankful for them.

"Good neighbours present a sense of security and promote a healthy psychological environment. This type of setting is crucial for me as a creative person, especially when I'm in that headspace where I'm thinking about producing new music. I'm truly blessed to have lived here for a significant part of my life."

The artist also has quite a significant presence in Vaughan, particularly when it comes to performing for weddings and special events, and with so many of the city's banquet facilities located throughout the area, the performer has grown close to a community that he's served for more than 20 years now.

"The Vaughan community has been very good to me, and with a rather

large Italian community, it has also made me feel like I'm right at home."

Pinto was born and raised in Hamilton which has a high Italian presence.

"I grew up with Italians, so I was very aware of and immersed in the culture at a young age. I learned Italian music and serenaded tables as a teenager with my sister who played the accordion. I have developed a very personal connection to Vaughan and grown to know several families in the community quite well," he says.

Although he received his formal education at McMaster University in marketing and communications, Pinto always kept his musical interests as a hobby. Each of his family members are also musically inclined. His two sisters play the keyboard, all three children were taught to play the piano by his mother, and his father sings in



and conducts a church choir. The family motto has always been, “music is food for the soul.”

Being surrounded by a family that indulged in the musical arts was of course the perfect setting for the young performer’s interests to grow into a professional career. On what sparked his initial reaction to the violin and his subsequent love for music, he says,

“To me, the violin was just another toy. I didn’t complain about it when my parents first introduced me to it as a child. And since I grew up watching my sisters play music, it simply felt like the natural thing to do in our home.”

Pinto received private training under the Royal Conservatory of Music and played in a number of recitals and performances including the Hamilton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. But as time progressed, he began to find his own unique style and explore new and innovative ways of bringing sound to life.

“The time comes when you can’t be taught anymore. You simply have to apply the training you’ve been given to create your own style.”



The professional violinist moved forward in doing exactly that, calling his new musical discoveries *classical fusion*, defined by his ability to play modern music on a classical instrument.

But there’s more to Pinto’s new genre than meets the ears. In addition to changing perceptions around what classical music sounds like, he’s changing the way music is experienced. He’s also tapping into a younger audience, encouraging listeners to challenge the stereotypes around classical and instrumental music and embrace their possibilities. Given that instruments like the violin are often thought to be heard only at symphonies, ballets or the opera, we rarely have the chance to hear a medley of genres come together featuring instruments like the violin. Pinto is changing that, and as his website puts it, “Whatever the genre, no matter the style (from classical to hard rock, Bollywood to pop), G’s singular talents bring favourite songs to life in vibrant, unexpected, brand new ways.”

The violinist is invited regularly to events across the city where viewers are usually in awe of his ability to adapt classical numbers to suit even the most contemporary of tastes.

continued on...page 6



continued from...page 5

"The violin is my tool. I can choose to wow my audience with a classical number or get them off their chairs and stomp their feet to the music of AC/DC. It's all about the performance."

The performer's schedule is always packed, and he's created quite the name for himself. He receives regular requests to perform at everything from weddings and personal milestone events to concerts, festivals, corporate affairs, galas and fundraisers. His collection is hard to forget, and even though he is classically trained, his repertoire includes an array of musical genres including pop, R&B, opera, contemporary sound and easy listening. His priority when

engaging with an audience is to get them out of their comfort zone. As a solo performer, he defies the typical personas associated with violinists and that's what keeps his audience coming back for more. In keeping with his unique profile, Pinto steers away from auditioning for the orchestra and is thoughtful and honest about the time and effort he has dedicated to his art, "After coming this far, I certainly don't want to be lost in a sea of violins," he says.

He manages his incredibly busy schedule and client expectations by ensuring he is always ahead of the trend when it comes to what people want to hear.

"You're only as good as your last performance, so it's critical for me to stay on top of my game and keep every act fresh."


Pinto also performs regularly for many charitable functions and participates in special performances for schools where he loves getting involved in educating students about the violin. He is also dedicated to the Arthritis Society as a result of his late mother, who passed in 2011 and suffered from rheumatoid arthritis.

Under the impression that luck has been a major factor in his success, the performer is beginning to get even more buzz with a few international inquiries from big names in the entertainment industry, but he will always be grateful to his listeners and clients here in the GTA.


His special message to the community is, "No human is an island. We all need to work together and it's nice to know that a supportive team of people who care about our neighbourhoods surround us. I'm extremely excited to be featured in this month's edition and would like to extend a special thank you to the magazine's supporters. The message delivered by a publication like Neighbours of Kleinburg really helps in promoting a healthy and enjoyable community and I'm thrilled to be a part of it."

**To learn more about Grenville,
visit www.gpinto.com.**

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