

40 weekend

Violin superstar

International violin superstar Anne-Sophie Mutter, right, offers a performance of the Violin Concerto by Johannes Brahms at Roy Thomson Hall tomorrow night. METRO TORONTO



Cuban Icon

Music icon Pedrito Calvo makes a rare Toronto appearance at Lula Lounge Sunday. METRO TORONTO

Grungy watering hole has lots of character

Wide Open

139A Spadina Ave.
416-727-5411

Ambience: Wide Open is a bit of an ironic name seeing as the bar is only about two arm-lengths in diameter, but what it lacks in size, this grungy watering hole makes up for in character. From the outside, Wide Open looks like a storefront tucked in between garment buildings and restaurants, but the

front door hides a fun little bar that's about as rough as they come, but more interesting than most high-end lounges around the city. The music is almost always rock and typically cranked, with the sounds of AC/DC, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Pearl Jam and other classic rock acts (anybody else feel old referring to Eddie Vedder and crew as "classic rock"?). Pumping through the hallway-like space,



THE PULSE
CHRIS ATCHISON
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Crowd: Wide Open caters to a slightly younger set, mainly those in their early-to-late 20s, with a

few older regulars thrown in the mix for good measure. The vibe is very friendly and there's a great deal of familiarity between patrons so there's no need to worry about unwelcoming attitudes.

Dress code: Casual, but in a raw, urban hip sort of way. Eclectic personal attire is virtually expected.

Should I dance on the bar?: If there are places in

Toronto where it might be acceptable, this would be one.

Will I get lucky?: There's definitely a chance. And if all else fails, at least the beer is cheap.

Best accessory: Tattoos should suffice.

Cocktail du jour: Well, the wine is basically fortified grape juice served in a rock glass (which is com-

pletely appropriate here) so you might want to opt for beer or hard liquor. Pony up to your good buddies Jack Daniels or Jim Beam, or head straight for the beer — again, they have specials throughout the week making the brew an economical, as well as potentially inebriating, choice.

Hours: Monday through Friday 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.; weekends 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Opera Briefs offering 5-minute masterpieces

Twelve comedies, romances, drama

Almost every year, Toronto's Tapestry New Opera Works runs a one-of-a-kind workshop where writers and composers explore ways to bring music and words together.

Much of this happens behind closed (and soundproof) doors, but whenever artistic director Wayne Strongman feels it's time, those doors swing open to reveal the state of new-opera art.

This is one of those occasions. Tomorrow night and Saturday, Tapestry unveils its seventh batch of "Opera Briefs," successful composer-writer fertilizations that have given birth to five-minute baby operas. This year, there are 12 bouncing comedies, dramas, tragedies, romances — and one labelled as "suspense."

You have probably not heard of the composers — Canadians William Rowson and Glenn James, as well as Americans Gabriel Gould and Stephen Taylor. You also may not be familiar with writers Taylor Graham, Marcia Johnson, Alicia Payne and Sandy Pool. But the singers selected to help bring their efforts to life are as good as any you would find on any stage.

Baritone Peter McGillivray, who has been collecting finalist medals at music competitions around the world, has a fine, rich voice like Gerald Finley's and shows increasing maturity in how he bandies it about on-stage. Soprano Carla Huhtanen was fabulous in Opera Atelier's Orpheus and Eurydice last year.

They are joined by another Tapestry regular, tenor Keith Klassen, whose flexible lyric voice was made to wrestle with the challenges of new music. Also

singing are young mezzo Jessica Lloyd and creamy, versatile countertenor Scott Belluz.

Countertenors usually sing Baroque works, not new ones. But this is part of Strongman's plan to stimulate creative thinking.

After hearing Belluz sing a few years ago, Strongman says he decided he would use him in his workshops one day. "Maybe we'll change the face of the Earth again," he says with a chuckle.

Tapestry is offering a free sample of Opera Briefs on the Pure Spirits Stage in the Distillery as part of Nuit Blanche on Saturday at 9:30 p.m.

where and when

» **WHERE:** Tapestry New Music Works, Ernest Balmer Studio, 55 Mill Street, Bldg. 58, Studio 315, Distillery Historic District. Tickets \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance, www.totix.ca.
» **WHEN:** Tomorrow & Saturday at 8 p.m.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Warden & Kennedy Weekend Station Closure For scheduled maintenance

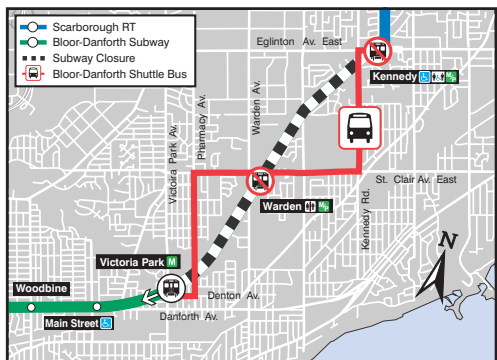
Subway service replaced by the



Bloor-Danforth shuttle*

Saturday & Sunday, September 15 & 16, 2007
Saturday & Sunday, September 29 & 30, 2007

*Not all express shuttle buses will be accessible



A frequent shuttle bus service will be operated between Victoria Park Station and Kennedy Station stopping at Warden Station, in both directions.

All trains on the Bloor-Danforth Subway will turn back west at Victoria Park Station.

Regular subway service resumes Monday morning

www.ttc.ca 416-393-INFO