

BS-6 THE RECORD

IN THE SCHOOLS

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Musical duo live artistic dream

By Vera Lawlor
Record Staff Writer

Ildiko and Kalman Magyar are not only scholars, but outstanding musicians, a combination that got them into Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Ildiko is a sophomore and her brother a freshman.

The Teaneck students have been playing the violin and performing since they were 4 years old.

"My father is very involved in the Hungarian community on the East Coast," said 20-year-old Ildiko Magyar, who is in a pre-medicine program at Duquesne. "My father directed a dance group called Hungaria, and we performed in it with our mother."

While attending Teaneck High School, the Magyars took over the job of directing Hungaria from their father, but it was not their only activity outside of school.

Rigorous pursuit of culture

As a high school junior, Kalman Magyar, now 18, took classes at Bergen Community College and Montclair State College. On Friday nights he performed with Hungaria. On Saturdays, he attended classes at the Preparatory Division School of Music in New York City, and he played Hungarian folk music with one of his two bands. Like her brother, Ildiko Magyar performed with the dance group and took music lessons in New York.

Kalman Magyar graduated from high school in three years. The college classes fulfilled his senior-year requirements. Following in his sister's footsteps, he got into Duquesne University on a full scholarship through the Tamburitzans, a Duquesne group that performs Eastern European music and dances.

"Everybody at high school told me I should complete senior year, but I really didn't have a social life there," he said. "My best friends were always in the Hungarian community, and I wanted to go on to Duquesne University because of the Tamburitzans. I thought I would be mixing with all Hungarians in the dance group."

But it didn't turn out that way. Each year Tamburitzan scholarships are available to talented high school seniors who possess the necessary academic, singing, dance, and instrumental qualifications, but the performers need not come from an Eastern European background. Students in the Tamburitzans must maintain a 2.0 grade-point average.

"It was great because I learned to get along and mix with all types of different people," said Kalman Magyar, who plays seven different stringed instruments in the performances.

He wants to be a lawyer. Leaving high school, Ildiko Magyar was as enthusiastic about her culture as her brother.

"Originally I wanted to go to Hungary to study medicine — I

wanted to be the most Hungarian I could be," she said. "But then I decided that if I wanted to practice in the United States, then I should study here also. It was a very big decision for me."

She said she loves Duquesne because she is respected as a student and a performer.

"During the week I am a hermit, spending all my time in the science lab, and at the weekends, I am a performer," said Ildiko Magyar, who plays the violin, dances, and sings in the troupe while maintaining a 3.0 grade-point average.

Broadening horizons

"I have learned so much from the Tamburitzans," she added. "I mix with people from Serbia and Croatia as well as Hungary, and now I can make an intelligent statement about those countries. I am now proud of Eastern Europe, not just Hungary."

Kalman Magyar, who maintains a 3.8 grade-point average, said he too has learned a lot from the dance group.

"You learn to respect things and other people," he said. "I used to hate Serbian music, now I play music from Serbia. We also learn responsibility — we all have our own jobs. I carry instruments and she [Ildiko] will do any last-minute sewing on costumes. We [the performers] also set up the props and the sound system."

"That is the difference between us and a professional group," his sister added. "What you see on stage is what you get — we [the performers] do it all."

The Tamburitzans spend a lot of time on the road, traveling to performances.

"Our season lasts from July to May, so unlike students on athletic scholarships we perform all year round," Kalman said.

Work during the summer includes a three-week camp and a two-week practice tour. Performers get three weeks off before school, then touring begins again.

Both Magyars said their artistic pursuits don't interfere with their studies.

"It doesn't if you don't let it," added Ildiko Magyar, who studies on the road to a show or between performances. "I have very big books, so rather than inconveniencing others on the bus, I bring my work on tape and listen to it on my Walkman."

The Tamburitzans' most recent performance was in Boston, just before final exams.

"We left campus at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, played a show in Harrisburg [Pa.] at 8 p.m. and another performance in Wayne on Friday night," Ildiko Magyar said. "Then we did a matinee in Boston on Saturday and drove 10 hours back to the campus."

"I am lucky because I'm small, and I can get some sleep by lying on the floor of the bus between suitcases," she joked.

"We arrived at 8 a.m., and she



PETER MONSEY/THE RECORD
Ildiko and Kalman Magyar of Teaneck tuning up for the Tamburitzans, a group that performs Eastern European music and dances.

SCHOOL NOTES

More than 60 public, private, and parochial middle and high schools in Bergen County have registered for the Teen Arts Festival, and others wishing to participate on May 13 and 14 at Ramapo College in Mahwah may call coordinator Ariene J. Pearman at 646-2793.

Students and teachers at Saddle River Day School have founded a community-service program to distribute books to organizations that will put them to good use.

In November, the fourth-graders donated books for their peers at a school in the South Bronx. The school also contributed some 100 books to the Bergen County Sheriff's Office, for use in programs for inmates. Now Saddle River Day School is trying to identify needy schools in Appalachia and elsewhere in the country, to include in the program.

Anyone wishing to donate to the project may call the headmaster's secretary at 327-4050.

ON CAMPUS

BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Charles E. Reid of Fort Lee has been reappointed chairman of the college's board of trustees. Also reappointed were Paula Giglio, vice chairman; Dr. Anthony Chibbaro, treasurer; and David M. Moskowitz, secretary. Gina Santoro of West New York joined the board as alumni representative.

Reid has been mayor of Paramus, a New Jersey assemblyman, a Bergen County freeholder, and a trustee of the Paramus Public Library. President Bush appointed him chairman of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

Giglio, an Alpine resident and attorney with the Newark firm of McCarter and English, has been a Bergen Community College trustee since 1984. Chibbaro lives in Fort Lee and has an orthodontic practice there. Moskowitz, of River Vale, is principal and owner of A. G. Lichtenstein and Associates Inc., consulting engineering firm. Santoro, who earned an associate degree in psychology in 1991 and served as president of the Student Government Association, will serve as a non-voting member of the board until the fall.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

NORTH JERSEY

Entry deadline is Jan. 17 for the annual National School Traffic Safety Poster Contest, sponsored by the North Jersey Automobile Club of the American Automobile Association. Students in public and parochial schools in Bergen, Hudson, and Passaic counties are eligible. Themes are "Help Your Safety Patrol" and "Walk Facing Traffic" for kindergarten through Grade 6 and "School's Open — Drive Carefully" and "Develop the Safety-Belt Habit" for Grades 7-12. Rules and application forms: 956-2243.

DEMAREST

Saturday workshops for children, 10 a.m. to noon Jan. 11 to Feb. 1, Old Church Cultural Center School of Art, 561 Pierson Road. Topics: drawing, copper enameling and basketry, and "Dishes to Eat From." Fee and registration information: 767-7160.

HACKENSACK

New Year's party for families, 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Center for Modern Dance Education, 84 Euclid Ave. Performance by the center's Cameo Company at 1 p.m. Refreshments, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Free dance classes. Reservations: 342-2989.

TEANECK

Six-week drop-in story time series for 3- and 4-year-olds, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesdays, next week through Feb. 11, public library. Registration not needed. Information: 837-4171.

SCHOLAR OF THE WEEK

ILDIKO MAGYAR

Sophomore, Duquesne University

AGE: 20

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: performing with Tamburitzans; teaching children Hungarian dance; spending time with friends.

LATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: awarded a full Tamburitzan scholarship to Duquesne University.

NEXT STOP: junior year.

QUOTE: "Because of the Tamburitzans, we are now able to teach our parents about other cultures."

SCHOLAR OF THE WEEK

KALMAN MAGYAR

Freshman, Duquesne University

AGE: 18

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: performing with Tamburitzans; teaching children Hungarian dance; intramural soccer with Tamburitzan soccer team; spending time with friends.

LATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: awarded a full Tamburitzan scholarship to Duquesne University.

NEXT STOP: sophomore year.

QUOTE: "My parents only spoke Hungarian when we were growing up, I learned English from 'Sesame Street' and 'Mr. Rogers.'"

[Ildiko] had class at 9 a.m.," her brother added. "It's not always easy to go to early morning classes, especially when you've missed the class the Friday before."

The Tamburitzans will perform at

8 p.m. Feb. 28 and 29 and 2 p.m. March 1 at the Bergen County Technical High School Auditorium in Hackensack. Donation is \$13.50. For ticket information, call 568-0915.