

entertainment

■ **RECITAL:** Done running with the dinosaurs at the London children's museum, versatile young composer Rob Teehan has been making sweet music at Western for the past few summers

A hard NYOC life still a joy

JAMES REANEY

The London Free Press

When Rob Teehan visited London as a musical kid from Oshawa, he would run around the dinosaur world at the London Regional Children's Museum.

This month, Teehan's dinosaur days are behind him as he's back in London at UWO's Delaware Hall as the National Youth Orchestra's composer-in-residence.

He has been at UWO for the past two summers as an NYOC staffer. In the summer of 2009, the Toronto composer and tuba player expects to hear two of his works played at concerts and recitals by NYOC students.

"It's not easy," Teehan, 26, says of winning respect as a young composer. He was appointed this year. "You have to have respect for the tradition and respect the environment that the music you're composing is going into."

Teehan began writing on the NYOC's tour bus in 2005 when he was one of the young musicians in the program known as Canada's advanced orchestral training institute.

The serious joy of life inside the NYOC is a different score entirely from the days when Teehan and his family would visit relatives in London for his birthday in October. Storybook Gardens was one stop. So was the children's museum.

"I remember dressing up as a

dinosaur and running through the caves," he says of those days.

Now, he is able to look back on the first two summers of the NYOC's training camp at UWO where the ensemble's home base is Delaware Hall.

"This is the third year that I've been here and I think the crop is the best," he says. The NYOC's class of 2009 ranges in age from 15 to 25. There are 100 young players at UWO after auditions for players from 14 to 28 were held.

After many other sites were used over the decades, the NYOC first held its training session at UWO in the summer of 2007. The arrangement seems set to put down some roots at UWO.

Brass and percussion players from the 100 who made the cut are heard tonight at the Paul Davenport Theatre. It is one of the first opportunities for the public to enjoy the newly renovated hall, formerly known as Tal-

bot theatre. On Friday at 9 p.m., one of Teehan's pieces — *Groove Games* — will be heard in a faculty recital at UWO's von Kuster hall.

"*Groove Games*, obviously it has got some various different rhythmic things . . . these guys have graciously agreed to give it a shot," he says. It is for a percussion quartet.

Next week, Teehan's nine-minute *Dreams of Flying* receives its world premiere at the July 23 program at 7:30 p.m. in an orchestral concert at Alumni Hall. The NYOC is back at Alumni Hall two days later to wrap up its UWO stay.

Dreams of Flying is partly about every kid's desire to soar and see the world from on high.

Teehan has a personal sense of the work's flight path, too. "It's also a metaphor for when you're a young musician about to start a career. You're about to take off into this unknown, thrilling, exciting, maybe sort of dangerous feeling," he says.

As a performer, Teehan has already been flying. He has played tuba and Sousaphone in many different ensembles and sung tenor in choirs around Toronto.

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IF YOU GO

What: Brass and percussion recital by NYOC students

When: Tonight, 9 p.m.

Where: Paul Davenport Theatre, Talbot College

Details: Free but donations welcome. For details on this and other NYOC-related concerts visit nyoc.org or call 519-850-2407, ext. 88597.



LINDSAY LOZON Special to Sun Media

Toronto musician and composer Rob Teehan plays enough instruments, including tuba and Sousaphone, to be a one-man band. But it's as a composer he will be heard this month in two separate NYOC events at UWO this month. One work for percussion quartet will be heard on Friday at von Kuster Hall and another will be heard with the full orchestra at Alumni Hall on July 23 at 7:30 p.m.