

## THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

# *The Times of Your Life* presents Love and Magic

by Ellen Lechter Green

Most people search for love and magic all their lives. Linda and Richie Pollock have found both.

"When we met in Copenhagen we laughed for five days straight," says Linda. "I had been looking for my other half and I found him."

Eighteen years after their 1972 wedding, Linda and Richie not only have love and magic but they are *Love and Magic*. The musical group will be performing at The Times of Your Life at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, 420 Sherbrooke West, on October 27 at 3 pm and October 28 at 4 pm.

"Linda and I began performing together in Copenhagen a few months after we were married," says Richie. "We checked into this little hotel and when they saw my guitar, they asked me to play. Then, while I was singing, Linda joined in."

"That night they kept bringing us beer and at one point a guy took off his hat and began passing it around," says Linda.

"We made the equivalent of about \$7," adds Richie. "But we had so much fun that we decided to sing together throughout Copenhagen and London."

After returning from Europe, Linda and Richie continued to sing wher-



ever they lived. And the list includes Montreal, New York, Florida and California. Although they weren't yet called *Love and Magic*, the two enjoyed success as folksingers. "In Greenwich Village, we'd sit on wooden chairs and sing only originals," says Richie. "No matter where we went, we would sing on street corners or enter talent competitions."

According to Linda and Richie, entertaining involves building a rapport with the audience. "Every time we play our music, people come over

about playing music for money."

In Florida, the duo developed a routine of various Broadway songs grouped together to tell a story. The 45 minute set became something more than two vocalists accompanied by a guitar. Linda and Richie found they were a popular choice for bookings at condominium complexes, senior residences and hotels.

In 1987, the couple returned to Montreal and developed the name *Love and Magic*. "We've played for private parties, at health clubs and for universities," says Linda. "Our music ranges from folk and soft rock to children's songs and Broadway musicals."

Besides original material written by Richie, they sing popular hits from the 20s and up. They like to get people dancing and singing along with them and say that one of their favourite audiences is seniors. "Music is an incredible experience," says Linda. "We make our living talking to people and getting to know them. We love the openness of older people."

"We recently performed at a senior's festival at a shopping mall in Halifax," adds Richie. "We had a great time. It seems that we became our audience's instant grandchildren."

After *The Times of Your Life*, the versatile performers hope to receive more bookings and to do more travelling. Although the world has changed much since they first began singing together, their beliefs toward life clearly reflect less pretentious

Although Linda and Richie won first prize in every talent contest they entered in the 70s, they hadn't yet experienced financial success. But becoming rich had never been their ultimate goal.

"Success was like a carrot, always dangling right in front of us," says Richie. "But just when we were about to grab it and take a bite, it was pulled away."

"Then I realized that we loved to communicate through singing — soul to soul and heart to heart," he contin-