

Arts & Entertainment

Lincoln band, Justin Morgan, works toward own style

By Chris Welsch

Justin Morgan is a band you may hear more of in the near future. They are very serious about what they are doing.

The group formed in December of 1981. Since then, they have been working together to create their own style, according to drummer Mike Kaiman, a UNL freshman and tentatively a percussion major.

Although some band members attend school, music has a high priority for them. Band manager, rhythm guitarist and lead vocalist Greg Votava spends much of his time arranging dates and working on promotional material.

The group may spend as much as two hours a night practicing in "Bucko's Studio," a building the group rented on Cornhusker Highway.

Votava, a sophomore psychology and business major, said the group plays "Top 40 to sophisticated heavy-metal." Their song list includes numbers by Loverboy, REO Speedwagon, the Police, ZZ Top, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Van Halen.

Justin Morgan has some of its own material, but until copyrights can be obtained, the songs will remain unheard to the listening public, Votava said.

The band has played in clubs in Grand Island and York and is now arranging some dates in Lincoln. They will appear Tuesday night at Larry's Showcase, and will play the Showcase and the Green Frog over spring break, Votava said.

The group is composed of lead guitarist Mike Myers of Lincoln, Mike Kornelson of York on bass and Kevin Hall of McCool Junction on keyboards. All the members sing.

At first Justin Morgan members had to hold down part-time jobs to support their music habit. Now music is supporting them, according to Votava.

Four members of the group are 20; Hall is 21.

The closeness in age has led to a sort of musical communication, Kaiman said.

"We have adapted to each other," he said.

Votava said the group's sound is becoming tighter and cleaner. He said the change is noticeable even over the last month.

The band's name came after several close-your-eyes-open-the-book-and-take-a-stab, attempts in *The Children's Book Of Knowledge*.

Justin Morgan was a famous horse-breeder from the 1700s, Kaiman said. He also wrote songs as a hobby.



Justin Morgan, from left: Mike Myers, Mike Kornelson, Kevin Hall, Greg Votava and Mike Kaiman. The band will be appearing at Larry's Showcase Tuesday night.

Of wild horses and elevators: dog day afternoon dreaming on a sun-drenched afternoon

Slice of Life:

Maroon, the Irish setter, lay sleeping in the sunny southwest corner of the living room. Occasionally a hind leg would jerk or a whimper, maybe a miniature howl, would emerge from his sometimes twitching jowls. Perhaps the memory of a pasture rabbit, maybe a plain ground squirrel, or was it the frightened Girl Scout delivering "Thin Mint" cookies.

Antonia sat at the bottom of the



T. Marni Vos

stairs, her head in her hands. Her eyes traveled from the red Irish setter to her younger sister, Nicolette.

Nicolette lay sleeping on the couch in the not-so-sunny northwest corner of the living room.

Antonia could see her sister's rapid eye movement from across the room. Her sleeping fingers played the air piano as she murmured something.

Antonia grinned, she spoke softly, "What Nicolette?"

More murmuring.

And now in a singing voice, "Nicolette, Nicolette, I can't hear you."

"Piano man . . . sometimes, when . . .", Nicolette trailed off.

"Nicolette, who's your favorite sister? Nici? Nici?, Who's your favorite sister?"

Murmuring.

Antonia moved to the floor; she tickled the bottom of the large dog's paw; the setter twitched his hind leg.

Antonia laid Maroon's ear across his forehead; still, he slept. A lung full of air hit the exposed spotted interior. The setter shook his head; the dog tags rattled;

the ear flap fell back into place.

Nicolette sat up.

"Oh Lord, oh Antonia, gol, I had the strangest dream."

"Yeah, you were talking in your sleep, something about Tim."

"Tim? Really? What did I say? Was I really?"

"No."

"No? I didn't say anything about Tim?"

"No, I lied. All you said was I was your favorite sister."

"You're kidding."

"What was your dream about?"

"Well, I was in a house, a big house, and everytime I would go into a room there would be wild horses. I thought they were real fine, but I was scared because they were untamed. So I got into the elevator and it kept going up and pretty soon it was above the house and I was flying through the air and, I don't know, it was just wierd. I ended up in a cave with bats flying around."

"I think it means you're thinking about moving or taking a vacation, maybe flying somewhere. Maybe that last part means you're worried about bad breath. Do you worry about bad breath?"

"Well, yeah, sometimes, doesn't everyone?"

The door next door slammed. The stereo came on and seeped through the walls.

"Saul must be here. I hope he gets the new Journey album. I'm getting kind of tired of this group, or maybe something from Toto would be nice."

"I'm going to the library and getting a book on dreams."

"I think I'm going to take Maroon cookie-hunting."

"Cookie-hunting?"

"Never mind."

Pakula's 'Sophie's Choice': Lasting emotional impact

By Jeff Goodwin

Once in a great while a film comes along that hits the audience with its emotional impact. Not the blatant tug at the heart a film like "Love Story" or "The Champ" gives you. No, I'm talking about a more lasting impact, one that stays with you for awhile. "Sophie's Choice" is such a movie.

Director Alan Pakula does this by exposing the audience to every aspect of his characters' lives. The audience first comes to know the characters and then to care about them.

The film, based on William Styron's novel of the same name, revolves around Sophie, a Polish survivor of the German death camp at Auschwitz, and the two men who love her.

Meryl Streep does a wonderful job as Sophie, but Kevin Kline, who portrays Nathan, Sophie's lover, steals the show.

The film follows the lives of Sophie, Nathan, and Stingo (David MacNichol) a young Southerner who comes north

Eventually Nathan's illness becomes obvious and Stingo takes Sophie away with him to the South, where he proposes to her. She turns him down but they do make love. Then Sophie realizes that her destiny is with Nathan and she returns to Brooklyn to be with him.

Pakula is successful in creating the mood of the era. There is a curious contrast in the film between optimism and despair — optimism in the fact that Sophie has managed to survive this horrible ordeal, and despair because, no matter what the rest of her life may hold, this experience has marked her for life. She will never be the same.

This is probably the best performance of Streep's career and she should win the Oscar for it. She lives her character.

As good as Streep's performance is, Kline's is better. He plays Nathan as an almost larger-than-life character, sweeping from one extreme to another, from the joy of life to its horror.

One of the ironies of the film is that Nathan, a Jew, is more obsessed with the Nazis than is Sophie, who has actually

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to Brooklyn to make his fortune as a writer.

Sophie and Nathan live in the Pink Palace, the boarding house in Brooklyn where Stingo finds a room.

Stingo quickly falls in love with Sophie but his friendship with Nathan is a little more complicated. It's impossible for Stingo to resist Nathan's charm (one of the best scenes in the film is when the three of them, after Nathan has read Stingo's novel, go to the Brooklyn Bridge and Nathan proclaims Stingo as someone who will take his place among the great American writers), but there is a darker side to Nathan.

This comes out most often when Nathan accuses Sophie and Stingo of having an affair behind his back. This is the first hint of Nathan's madness.

seen the horrifying face of the Nazi regime.

Nathan's room is covered with pictures of escaped Nazi war criminals. All Sophie wants to do is forget the war. But of course she never will.

Pakula also uses the technique of film-making to enhance the film. When Sophie is telling Stingo about Auschwitz, the camera switches from the flashback to a closeup of Streep's face in the shadows. The effect is dramatic.

Hemingway once said, "When two people fall in love it can only end in tragedy." He could have added that the result is the same when you add another person.

"Sophie's Choice" is a very ambitious film and tries to do a lot in two and a half hours. And it succeeds.

This is one film you should not miss.