

entertainment

Sarod player featured here

Ali Akbar Kahn, who gave a concert Tuesday evening in the Nebraska Union Centennial room, is known as India's greatest sarod performer.

The sarod, perfected by Ustad Allaudin Khan, Ali Akbar's father, is somewhat similar to a guitar. It has a skin covered belly, metal fingerboard and 25 metal strings, 17 of which act as sympathetic vibrators. Four are used to play the melody, and the other four are tuned to the tonic note and used as drones.

Kahn took his first lessons from his father at age three, and learned drums and vocal music before deciding to concentrate on the sarod. He practiced eighteen hours a day for fifteen years to gain mastery of the instrument.

Kahn is the most recent member of a musical family which can be traced to Tansen, Mongul court musician of Akbar, Mogul emperor in the 16th century.

Since his initial visit in 1955, Kahn has since performed extensively in the United States and other countries, and appeared at the concert for Bangla Desh in Madison Square Garden.

In 1956, he founded the Ali Akbar College of Music in Calcutta to carry on the teaching tradition of his father. In 1968, he founded a branch of this college in Main County, Calif.

Kahn also is known as a composer, and has written music for eighteen films, ballet and theater performances. He also has written eighteen original ragas, or melody-types, which are the basis of classical Indian music.

In 1963 and 1966 he was presented with the President of India award, the highest honor given an Indian musician. He also holds the award of the Padma Bhushan, or "lotus-adorned master."



Ali Akbar Khan, a sarod player from India, performed in concert Tuesday evening in the Nebraska Union Centennial Room.

Photo courtesy Judith Ligner Artists

Barbershop singing five centuries old

By Sarah Boslough

When 800 people crowded into Lincoln East High School's auditorium Saturday night for the annual barbershop singing show of the Lincoln Continentals, they witnessed a tradition at least five centuries old.

The Continentals are singers belonging to the local chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA). They were featured in the first half of a program, entitled "a patriotic salute to America."

The distinctive sound of a barbershop quartet or chorus is achieved by singing perfectly in tune without vibrato. This causes chords to "lock in" or "bloom" as the natural overtones of each note reinforce the tones of the others.

This effect cannot be achieved with piano or most instrumental groups, because they must play in the tempered scale and therefore slightly out of tune.

Dynamic range

The singing ensembles in the program displayed excellent intonation and blend in a wide dynamic range. This is noteworthy because barbershop groups are unaccompanied, and few of their singers are professionals.

The second half of the program featured two guest quartets: "Grandma's Boys"

from Illinois, third place medalists in the international quartet competition, and the "Classic Collection" from Hastings, currently the top-ranking quartet in Nebraska.

The average age of "Grandma's Boys" members is 23 years, suggesting that a wide range of people are attracted to barbershop singing. The 65 members of the Lincoln Continentals, although predominantly middle-aged singers, include four high school and five college students.

The capacity audience, which included people of all ages, responded enthusiastically to every number and called the two guest quartets back for encores.

Pass the time

Barbershops in 16th century England were places where men met and passed the time. Barbers or customers waiting for their services could play a cittern (a guitar-like instrument in most shops), and sing.

The custom of informal, extemporized singing died out in 18th century England, but was transported to the United States.

Barbershop singing, then almost any type of amateur singing, survived to the 20th century. In the 1930s, the popularity of radios led to the fear that group singing would die out. In 1938, 26 men met and formed the SPEBSQSA. The organization, which has more than 35,000 members and 800 chapters, is the largest all-male singing society in the world.

'Hark the Ark' to be in Lincoln

Back in the Dark Ages, when theater was a spokesman for the church, the prevalent forms of stage entertainment were the morality plays—the tales of Everyman battling Satan and the temptations of this world to find truth and salvation in the next.

A troupe from San Diego, the Lamb's Players, have revived this tradition, giving productions at churches, parks, campuses,

fairs and penal institutions throughout the country.

The actors will be on campus this week to present *Hark! The Ark* Wednesday on the south lawn by Love Memorial Library at 12:30 and 6 p.m.

The six groups sponsoring the production are Prayer and Praise, the Campus Crusade for Christ, Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship, Navigators, the Baptist Student Union and the Baptist Student Fellowship.

CINEMASCOPE:
'Undercovers Hero'

By K. Alice Betts

Combine several imported spices of Peter Sellers with approximately 1,500 pounds of provocative and soliciting ladies; set in gay Paris during World War II and garnish with a farcical overtone. The inevitable result is a funny, very funny, movie.

Undercovers Hero, showing at the Douglas 3 Theatre and 84th and O Drive-In, is a hilarious approach to the Allies' war tactics. Ladies from the den of iniquity, a highly respected Paris brothel, are unofficially drafted into the French forces. Their heroic endeavors in seducing and detaining high-ranking German officials incites contagious laughter throughout the audience.

The film stars Peter Sellers in seven roles. The British actor was particularly memorable as the German inspector (sound familiar?) determined to uncover sus-

picious activities. Although he was the villain, you had to feel sorry for the over-achiever's dedication despite continual failure.

It was a film full of puns; Bennett Cerf would have loved *Undercovers Hero*. Much of the movie's comedy was derived from sexual implications and political puns that consistently provoked chuckles.

The superb make-up techniques used to create Seller's many faces were commendable. I almost "Heiled Hitler" when the German leader made his appearance. And if I had known the Japanese presidential salutation, I would have offered my respects to their commander. The disguises were unbelievably believable.

For unorthodox nostalgia, *Undercovers Hero*, rated R, provides adult entertainment only.

Start treating your brothers and sisters like brothers and sisters.



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