

Music

KFMQ concert series strikes Sunday eve spark

By Douglas R. Weil

Be creative. Hang a few strands of blinking Christmas tree lights above your loudspeakers. Toss your pro model Frisbee around the room, but watch that lamp on the end table. And if you're a fanatic for realism, you and your roommate (better yet, you and your girlfriend) could take turns searching each other for contraband.

But whatever mood devices you decide on, make sure that your radio is tuned to KFMQ at 9 p.m. on Sunday evenings for KFMQ's living room concert series.

These living room concerts started two weeks ago with a live recording of Rod Stewart in England. The second concert, aired last Sunday featured a popular European group, Climax Blues Band.

These concerts are presented by the British Broadcasting Company and are distributed in the United States by London Wavelength. According to Roger Agnew, program director at KFMQ, the London Wavelength series is nationally sponsored by the Toyota Corporation.

"Wavelength really does a good job at everything they do," Agnew said. "They've done fine shows in the past on Bob Dylan and Elton John. They seem to be a top-notch, quality organization."

Concert series

Besides the fact that the concert series is well-produced, the concerts run in their entirety without commercial interruption.

Agnew explained KFMQ wanted to do the concerts but doing them without the commercial breaks was a major consideration.

KFMQ approached London Wavelength about such a possibility and received permission. In lieu of running commercials during the concert, KFMQ works the Toyota spots in at other times in their broadcast schedule.

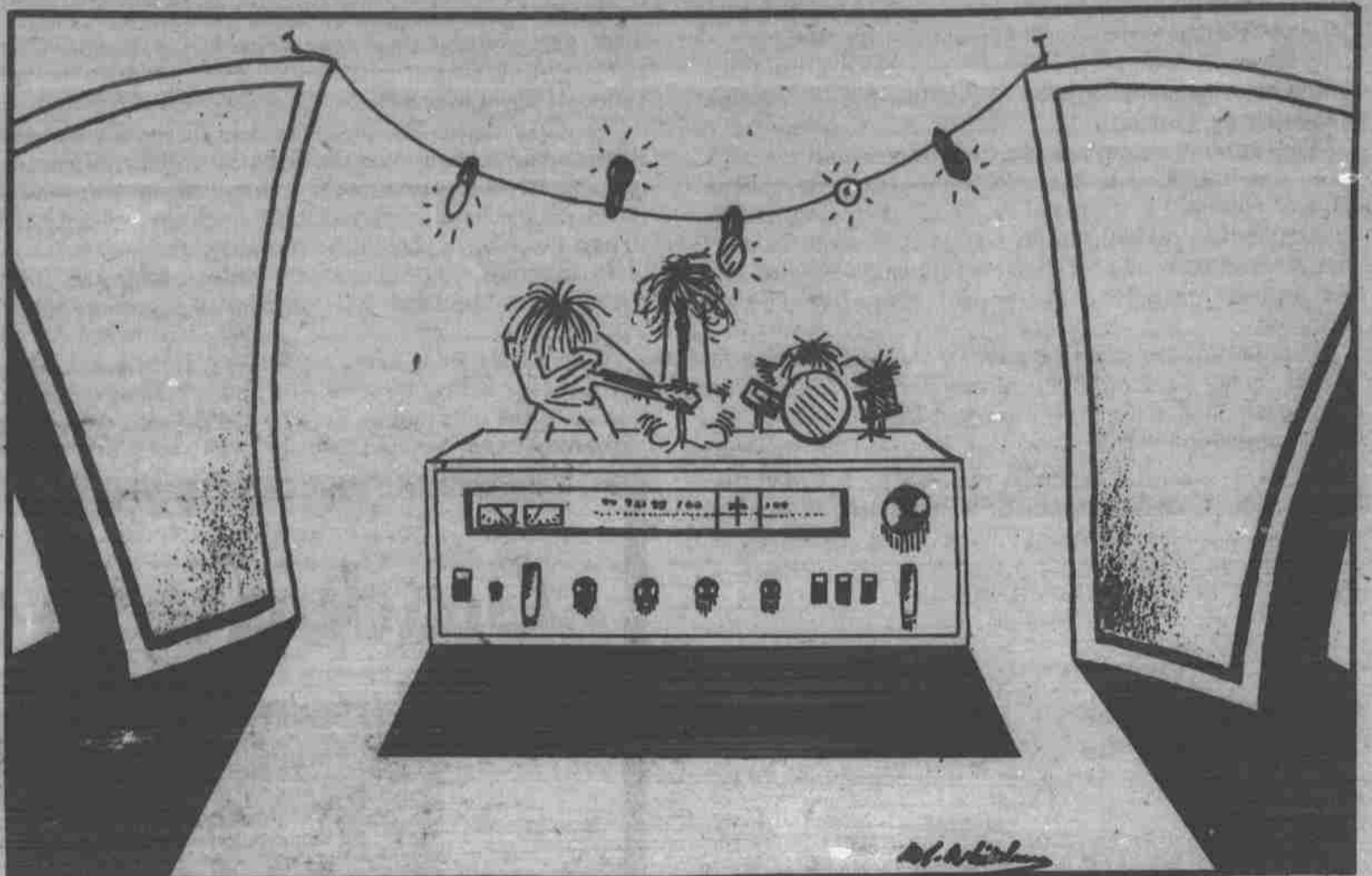
In addition to making the concerts more listenable, the absence of commercial interruption makes things convenient for home recording enthusiasts. Judging from the first two shows, the Wavelength concerts are worth preserving and they easily surpass the quality of most recent live LP's.

The London Wavelength series usually runs every other week but KFMQ has stockpiled the shows and is presenting the best of the series on consecutive Sunday evenings.

In the future KFMQ listeners will be hearing live recordings of Led Zeppelin, Al Stewart, and Renaissance.

Specials

Agnew also said that KFMQ has "two specials in the



can." One is a six-hour Beach Boys show and the other is a 12-hour presentation of the Beatles.

According to Agnew, the Beach Boys special will be aired "when the weather gets a little warmer" and the Beatles special will be broadcast when Agnew and associates decide exactly what to do with the marathon-length show.

Actually, presenting recorded concerts is not new to KFMQ. Until just about nine months ago they had subscribed to the popular King Biscuit Flour Hour series.

"The consistency of the King Biscuit series really dropped off," Agnew said. "It eventually got to the point where only two out of every three shows was of worthwhile quality."

"Under the King Biscuit series the subscribing station is committed to airing every show. Thus we decided to drop it."

Recently though, the quality of the King Biscuit series has risen and Agnew said he is contemplating picking it up again.

Another of KFMQ's special programming features is the Focus series. Focus is a 90-minute special centering on one group or artist. It contains interviews, short biographical sketches, and a large sampling of the artist's music.

Recent focus presentations have included Led Zeppelin and Al Stewart. In the coming weeks Focus listeners will hear presentations of Fleetwood Mac, Stevie Wonder, the Who, and the Eagles. The Stevie Wonder and Eagles shows run over 90 minutes in length and will broadcast on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

Focus is usually aired on Monday evenings at 9.

Agnew said the Focus presentations are produced and written entirely from the files of KFMQ, which include material from Rolling Stone News Service, Innerviews, King Biscuit presentations, and KFMQ's own interview library.

Like the concerts, Focus is presented sans commercial interruptions.

"We just wanted to give the audience something that wasn't commercially sponsored for a change," Agnew said.

arts and entertainment

Voters to decide future of Lincoln Civic Center plans

By Charlie Krig

Although Lincoln already has six places to stage fine arts, none seem to be able to meet all of the needs of the city's fine arts groups. The six buildings, Pershing Municipal Auditorium, Kimball Recital Hall, O'Donnell Auditorium, the Lincoln Community Playhouse, the Nebraska Sports Complex and UNL's Howell Theatre, may soon be joined by yet another fine arts center.

The fate of the new project, tentatively called the Civic Center, depends on the whims of Lincoln's voters.

The Civic Center Plan is a proposal to renovate the old City Hall and old Federal Building on the 9th and O Street block downtown. The Civic Center Theatre would link the two existing buildings creating a 2500-seat performance center besides providing office space in the older sections.

A bond issue to pay for the proposed center will go before Lincoln voters on May 3. The bond has been set at seven million dollars to cover the estimated construction, renovation and preservation costs (\$6,371,175) and still provide for possible inflationary cost increases.

Corporation formed

Art Thompson is executive director of the Civic Center Corporation, a non-profit organization formed to develop the plan for the center.

Thompson said there are three big advantages to the Civic Center. The center would preserve two existing historical buildings (the old City Hall and the old Federal Building), he said.

Thompson said the second reason was that both buildings could be used if some fire and safety codes are

met, rather than having to construct a new building.

Thompson also said not only would two-thirds of the space be used for Lincoln city office space but the remaining one-third would be the theatre complex. Thompson said a new theatre alone would cost over \$6.4 million, but for that price the city is getting the theatre plus office space.

The center would also save money because the property would belong to the city and Lincoln wouldn't have to rent office space at higher rates, Thompson said. He said Lincoln already owns the old City Hall (purchased from the Federal Government in 1903 with the stipulation that it must be used for municipal purposes) and the old Federal Building would be a gift to the city from the Civic Center Corporation (who bought it from the Mutual Development Company in 1975 for \$695,000 or \$305,000 less than its appraised value at the time).

Property taxes

If the bond issue is passed Thompson said the Lincoln property tax would be raised about 1.8 mills (\$1.80 per \$1,000 worth of the property's assessed value).

Thompson said the city wouldn't be the only one to benefit from construction of the Civic Center. He said the UNL and the UNL Cultural Arts Committee (CAC) have been in on the planning.

"The theatre is being designed for multi-purpose use and our hope is that the University will use it," he said.

Gary Gilger, program adviser for the Nebraska Union Program Council (UPC), said the center would be "a great addition to the city" and that UPC would be "more than likely to use it if it could."

John Moran, director of the UNL School of Music, said the center would be used extensively for large attractions and that CAC would "entertain the idea of bringing in large attractions" such as major opera companies, symphony orchestras and ballet companies.

"There's no question but what the University would want to have a facility the size and dimension of the Civic Center, which most other universities already have," he said.

Annual events

Moran also said he couldn't say if annual events (such as band concerts) would want to move from UNL to the center. Moran said the yearly production of "The Messiah" is the only one being considered right now for production at the center.

Moran said the music dept.'s three honoraries are going to sponsor some publicity events in favor of the center's construction.

Kimball Recital Hall director David Fowler said the center would need a good, solid promotional staff but that it would grow once it was started. Fowler said the center could handle the events that Kimball doesn't have staging areas or size to accommodate.

"The major thing is a size to make it economical but not so that the acoustics are shot," said Fowler. He said the Pershing stage is good but the seating isn't the best when using the stage.

Lincoln's proposal, Fowler said, is part of a trend all over America to build concert halls with about 2,500 seats, full theatre facilities, and good acoustics.

Fowler said another necessary element is customer convenience or parking. He said parking would be available but it might be farther away than the people would want to walk.

Lincoln City Council Chairman Max Denney said parking wouldn't be a problem once the downtown Centrum project is completed.

Jerry Lewis, a UNL theatre dept. faculty member, couldn't be reached for comment, but secretary Pat Overton said the theatre dept. wouldn't use the center if it is constructed.

Talks committee seeks comments

The Union Program Council Talks and Topics Committee today will have its second open forum for student and faculty comments about the selection of speakers for the next academic year.

The forum is at 3:30 p.m. in Nebraska Union 242.

The committee is the major speakers' programming organization at UNL. During the past year, the committee sponsored the *Symposium on Power and Conspiracy in America* and lectures by Daniel Schorr, Vincent Bugliosi, R. Buckminster Fuller, Elaine Noble, Florynce Kennedy and Isabel Letelier.

The committee works with a budget of about \$14,000 in student fees and \$2,000 in other funds, and hopes to present at least six nationally known speakers and a variety of local and regional lecturers during the coming year. The committee also will participate in another symposium during the fall semester.

