

arts and entertainment



Photo by Ted Kirk

Madeline L'Engle, author of *A Wrinkle in Time*, says fantasy leads to reality.

Choral group sings medleys

They sing, they dance, they entertain. They're not all music majors but they're all performers. They're the Scarlet and Cream Singers, a UNL choral ensemble sponsored by the Alumni Association.

Directed by UNL Associate Professor of Music, Ray Miller, the fourteen-member group performs at various campus and community activities.

Selections in this year's repertoire include a Saturday Night Fever medley, a Lady America medley, and a medley of television tunes.

"The TV tune medley consists of 26 or 27 TV themes and was arranged by Bob Buckholz, a former group member, who also arranged the Saturday Night Fever medley," Miller said.

The group also performs a medley from *Grease* complete with '50s costumes. "We do the Broadway *Grease* which is a little different from the movie *Grease* because it is done in the '50s style rather than a disco style," the director explained.

Receive credit

The Scarlet and Cream Singers is offered as a one-credit class. Members receive scholarships from the Alumni Association each semester.

The group was founded in 1972 by the Alumni Association which covers expenses and lines up performances, according to Barb Hengen, director of alumni clubs and liaison between the association and the singers.

"The Scarlet and Cream Singers are the most inspiring group of people I've ever worked with and I know of no other group that can sell the university as well as they can," Hengen said.

Other performances this year have included the homecoming ethnic celebration, the Beta Theta Pi Spaghetti Feed, receptions for the Californians for Nebraska, and trips to Gothenberg and Colorado.

The singers took a four-day tour through Colorado, performing in Fort Collins, Denver, Boulder, and, on the way home, stopping in Scottsbluff.

Open to anyone

Adutions for the Scarlet and Cream Singers are in the spring and open to any student.

"Next year we hope to have another group," Miller said. "It's still only a possibility right now, but if we do have another group, then we could use one group of singers as a training group."

Upcoming performances of the group include an appearance at the Lincoln Country Club on Nov. 10, Red Carpet Days on Nov. 17, and the Chancellor's Reception on Dec. 1, as well as the annual spring concert, Miller said.

New members of the group this year are soprano singers Dawn Penny from Central City and Jody Jensen from Lincoln, and tenors Paul Eschliman and Chip Carmichael, both from Lincoln.

The other ten members

of the group are Jeff Cox, Tom Farrell, Sue Gast, Becky Hanson, Jim Jenkins, Cindy Longacre, Mary Jane Mastalir, Ben Salinas, Deb Schmidt, and Paul Tranisi.

Providing accompaniment for the singers are Kathy Tejcka and Carey Boesiger on the piano, Eric Johnson on bass, Dave Fowler, guitar, and Brian Jefferson, drums. The technicians of the group are Cooper Hanson and Steve Booten.



UNL's Scarlet and Cream Singers perform throughout the midwest.

Author writes fairy tales in search for excellence

By B.J. Huchtemann

Somewhere, sometime, chances are that you have read or been read a classic piece of children's fantasy literature called *A Wrinkle in Time*.

profile

Madeleine L'Engle, who wrote this fantasy tale, was in Lincoln early this week making lecture appearances. L'Engle spoke to a crowd that ranged from the young to the young at heart Monday night in the Nebraska Union Ballroom.

"We no longer breathe real air," she began, "...we no longer have real food... there are people who have never known the smell of freshly brewed coffee... But lately there's been a real rebellion against this plasticity forced upon us."

Minimum effort immoral

L'Engle said she believes our culture is beginning to realize making something less excellent than you're capable of making it is immoral.

"The search for excellence has no short cuts," she said.

L'Engle related the significance of this search for excellence in terms of the fairy tale. Her definition of fairy tale is expanded to include science fiction and fantasy literature, as well as the classical fairy tale.

The fairy tale breaks down into five elements, according to L'Engle; the quest, the younger son, the true princess, the monster and the happy ending.

L'Engle says this breakdown is in effect a blueprint of the human psyche. Using various fairy tales as metaphors, L'Engle explained that all five elements of the fairy tale are present in everyone; Why are we here? Who am I? Does anybody care? What is the meaning of the quest?

More than we know

"The fairy tale assures us we are more than we know," L'Engle said. "The fairy tale assures us we are not alone. We are all the younger son, who knows he's not qualified to follow the quest."

"He looks for help and expects it," L'Engle said, "unlike the older brothers on their do-it-yourself kick... The younger son doesn't have expectations. We don't always want to do the things we have to do but we do them anyhow."

L'Engle said it's easier for women to accept all the elements of the fairy tale in us

because women aren't taught to repress intuition and emotion.

Mish-mash

"Biologically we are all a complicated mish-mash of male and female genes... but the richness of our being includes the recognition of all our aspects."

"Last summer," L'Engle explained, "my actor-husband refused to turn on the air-conditioner in the middle of the sweltering summer in the city because he's a real princess."

The monster is present in all of us as well.

"When we're monstrous we are at our least lovable and most in need of love," L'Engle said. Part of the "true vocation" of the younger son and the true princess is to embrace the monster, she added.

"The happy ending begins with our recognition of our wholeness, that we are so much more than we know," she said.

Count your age

This vibrant woman who readily admits she will turn 60 this month qualifies her age, saying "I am also 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, on up."

"If I do not remain the child that I was... the searching adolescent that I was, I have lost a part of me... Part of that added extraneous we sometimes forget we have."

L'Engle started writing when she was 5 years old.

"I was a very solitary, only child... early on, my search for reality was through story," she explained.

"In the years between 8 and 11 I had a series of dreams in which I was not me," L'Engle said. In her dreams she was a swashbuckling pirate, the daughter of an English explorer...

"I think we neglect our dreams," she added. "Our nighttime dreams are a part of our personalities and can help us recognize the many parts in us."

Published after graduation

Not too long after she graduated from college L'Engle's first novel was published.

"My own life is in everything I write because that's all I have to work from," L'Engle said.

"To write for a child or to write for a grown-up is exactly the same process," she explained, "...your reader must believe what you're telling."

Writing fantasy is the activity of looking for reality, L'Engle said, seeking for what we as human beings really are. And the deepest realities are not found in the realm of provable fact.

"There's nothing about love that is a provable fact," L'Engle explained.