

Local jazz group mixes styles to form trademark

Review By
Mary Jane Winqest

Jazz, Mangione style, has found its way to Lincoln in the form of Orpheus. An assemblage of local talent, Orpheus is the first joint adventure of four persons who have been friends for years.

"We communicate well with each other, so we play well with each other," bassist Andy Hall said of the members' long friendship.

Orpheus, a year and a half old, has experienced some minor personnel changes and grown to include keyboard player Tom Larson, its newest member.

Trumpeter and flugel horn player Bryan McCune said the name Orpheus was chosen because the Greek poet and musician was followed in the forest by a succession of animals. McCune said the name Orpheus was chosen because "of the association to music Orpheus has and lack of any other idea."

But their music is much more involved than the Greek name might imply.

"We try to combine standard and contemporary jazz and jazz rock sounds,"

McCune said.

Orpheus trademark
Orpheus' instrumental jazz music ranges from Duke Ellington to Miles Davis to Deodato and the music's successful transition is the Orpheus trademark. Their mix of low-key and upbeat swing jazz offers good listening.

McCune said Orpheus material comes from many sources, including "albums and obscure records."

McCune's smooth control of the flugel horn is the group's obvious connection to Mangione. But all of the four members have a style of their own. The percussionist, bassist, trumpeter and keyboard player are obviously serious musicians.

McGuffey's, 11th and P streets, where they performed last Friday and Saturday, was the ideal setting for Orpheus. The remodeled lobby of the old Sam Lawrence Hotel offered a comfortable, spacious atmosphere for Orpheus' jazz.

Retaining the original hand-laid tile terrazzo flooring, McGuffey's includes treasures, like heavy wooden bannisters, originals from

the hotel's upper floors.

Their first set Saturday night closed with an upbeat tune by Miles Davis entitled, "All Blues." Two tunes from a Dave Sanborn album were performed including "Concrete Boogie." An old standard, "Autumn Leaves," was perked up for an updated sound, and a slow blues Duke Ellington tune, "Things Aren't What They Used To Be," also was performed.

French horn major
Bassist Andy Hall is a french horn major but in Orpheus he alternates playing a fretted and unfretted bass.

"It is more appropriate for this type of music," Hall said of the vibrato and slurred notes produced by the unfretted bass which he prefers to play.

McCune also alternates instruments, playing the flugel horn more often than the trumpet.

"The flugel horn takes more wind, but that is the only difference," McCune said of the problems of exchanging instruments.

The dominant sound of keyboard player Tom

Larson includes electric piano, string synthesizer and synthesizer. Larson is a graduate teaching assistant at UNL.

Larson and McCune often alternate solo spots during songs and contribute most to the group's con-

temporary sound.

Another music student, percussionist John Scofield, describes his contribution to the group as a "thin sound." This is because of his use of the high-hat cymbal instead of the bass drum as the group's pulse, he said.

"That's just me, my sound," he added.

The four friends, who go back to junior high days and before, plan next to play for private parties.

"In Lincoln there aren't a lot of places to play jazz," McCune explained.

UNL hosts historic orchestra

The Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig, its history spanning centuries of musical prominence, will present two performances in Lincoln, Thursday, Nov. 9 and Friday, Nov. 10 at 8 p.m. Both performances will take place at Kimball Hall, 11th and R streets.

The Gewandhaus Orchestra was founded in 1743 by the townspeople of Leipzig, Germany in an effort to establish Leipzig as a world famous center for music.

Some illustrious conductors of the orchestra in the past have included Felix Mendelssohn-Barthody, Arthur Nikisch, Bruno Walter, Gustav Mahler, Wilhelm Furtwangler, and Karl Reinecke. The orchestra presently is under the direction of Kurt Masur, one of the most prominent

and internationally-known conductors in Europe.

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Masur and the orchestra have consistently received critical acclaim. The *Boston Globe* cheered the orchestra as a "superb ensemble," Harold Schonberg of *The New York Times* called the Gewandhaus "a top-notch

The concert is presented by the UNL Cultural Affairs Committee. It is financed in part by a fund made available to the NU Foundation by Viola C. Jelinek as a memorial to her father, Stephen Jelinek.

Sci-Fi films shown in union

The first U-Trek Science-Fiction Film Festival will take place tonight and Thursday in the Nebraska Union Centennial Room.

Showing tonight at 7 will be the Stanley Kubrick classic, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and *The Incredible Shrinking Man*. Thursday night will feature *The Time Machine*, and for the first time in Lincoln, *Dark Star*, also starting at 7.

Admission is \$2.50 per night, and students receive a 50 cent discount if wearing any science-fiction or horror costume.

The event is sponsored by the University Program Council.

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UNL Students 4.00 Regular 8.00
Tickets 472-3375 or at Box Office

These concerts financed in part by a fund made available to the Nebraska Foundation by Viola C. Jelinek as a memorial to her father, Stephen Jelinek.

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