

arts/entertainment

Neoclassic Jazz Orchestra in NETV series

Review by Cydney Wilson

As part of the four-part concert series which NETV is producing, the 18-member Neoclassic Jazz Orchestra performed Sunday at the station's studio.

The group played a 35-minute set consisting of six numbers, representing a variety of jazz styles. The first number "Zanobia 5," by Rex Cadwallader, the keyboard and musical director of the group, exhibited a tight, clean sound evidenced throughout the concert. Solos by Barry McVinney on saxophone and John Tavlin on trumpet were featured.

The second selection, "Queen Bee," by Sammy Nestico, was a more typical jazz number, reminiscent of the days of Count Basie. Matt Wallace was the soloist for this number, playing the tenor sax. His solo gave a great deal of resonance and created the mellow mood of the number.

The Neoclassic Jazz Orchestra received a grant from the Nebraska Arts Council to commission works of Nebraska composers. They have commissioned four numbers; one they premiered Sunday. Tom Larson's "Jose Can You See," was one of the best in the concert. Jeff Johnson on percussion helped to create the samba-like feeling, using timbales and cowbells. Ed Love's saxophone solo was fast and furious, finishing with Barry McVinney's saxophone solo, which added great depth to the

number. The whole piece was enthusiastic and well-performed.

Old jazz sound

"The Thrill Is Gone," an old classic, brought the audience back to the old jazz sound. Beautifully done with McVinney on soprano sax, the song was very soft and mellow, the mood being further enhanced by the lighting.

The orchestra members let themselves have a great time in their final number, "Cantina Band," from the movie *Star Wars*. It was short and charged with enthusiasm. It was especially fun to watch the percussionist, Jeff Johnson, and the unique mouth harp and other instruments he played.

Different fields and backgrounds

Neoclassic Jazz Orchestra is a Lincoln-based organization, made up of people from many fields and backgrounds. Yet the common denominator seems to be a real love for the Big Band sound, and the fact that members all were, or are, a part of the University Jazz band.

The concert was enhanced because it was being taped with a studio audience.

Matt Wallace, saxophonist and freshman at UNL said, "without an audience everything gets slowed down, and you lose the vitality."

The concert lacked the spontaneity of a regular concert, and at times it seemed extremely rehearsed and conservative. Yet the longer they played, the more relaxed the concert seemed to become.

Series a "great idea"

Ted Larson, another saxophonist for the Neoclassic, felt the series was a great idea. Comparing it with other concerts, he said, "the extreme heat of the lights had an effect upon the intonation of the instruments, especially the trumpets." Wallace commented on this too, saying (he) noticed things going a little sharp on the numbers. This was taken into consideration by the producers, because they gave the group a five-minute break between each number to retune their instruments.

After the concert, musical director Rex Cadwallader said the concert was "a lot of fun, and very relaxing," as opposed to a concert with no breaks.

The taping session was well-organized and provided a great afternoon of enjoyment for the 200 who attended.

The Neoclassic will play at Plus X High School, at 7:30 tonight. The concert will premiere the other three numbers commissioned with the grant.

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Versatile soap aids travelers

Commentary By Robert Bauer

These days it seems many Americans are paranoid about how people in foreign countries will treat them as they travel. For all those worries there is a simple answer, Dr. Bronner's Peppermint 18-in-1 Pure-Castile-Soap. Put a quart of this in your backpack and even the most cynical European will look at you in awe. To Jeannie Spar I owe a great debt for introducing me to Dr. Bronner's soap.

marching into the bathroom with their tubes of Signal red- and white-striped toothpaste, walk in with your soft bristled Reach and the quart of Dr. Bronner's. Calmly squirt two drops onto the toothbrush and start brushing your teeth. As you do this, someone is bound to ask you what the pale colored liquid is. At this point offer them a few drops. As they begin to brush their teeth, start your monologue.

departures

The good doctor's soap can be purchased in just about any health food store. I recommend about 8 ounces per 20 days of travel.

Explain that the soap is very versatile. You can tell the gent you use it to wash your hair, scrub your tennis shoes, and other fine leathers, wash your clothes, clean your body, shampoo and condition your hair, repel mosquitos, and sooth your aching muscles. You could even tell him that in a pinch it makes a fantastic deodorant.

The key to the soap, and the respect you will command from the Europeans, is the number of ways you use it. While other people will be fumbling for a bottle of hair conditioner, shampoo, shaving cream, deodorant, bar soap and toothpaste, you will be proudly marching into the shower with your quart bottle of Dr. Bronner's soap. The liquid soap can be used for all those things and more. This soap is to backpacks what aspirin is to medicine, and what taxes are to society—a veritable cure-all. If the soap can't meet all your needs, then you have needs that don't need to be met.

If that isn't enough (and it will be), grab the bottle and start rattling off the 18-in-1 uses. Cleans dentures, cleans baby's dirty diapers (usually the clincher), drives ticks off your German Shepherd, and can even be used to rinse dangerous pesticides off fruit and vegetables.

The only difficulty we ever had with Dr. Bronner's soap was his label. Apart from the 18-in-1 uses which are listed on the label, there is considerable space devoted to some rather interesting propaganda. Here is a sample: "Mohammed's Arabs 1948, found Israel Dead Sea Scrolls, prove that as certain as no 6-year-old can grow up tree without the ABC, so certain can no 12-year-old enter manhood... the real Rabbi Hillel taught Jesus!"

If you find this conglomeration of third-grade grammar annoying, then you might soak the bottle for a half hour in hot water. The label peels off perfectly. You might let the label dry and take it with you on your trip. It makes a great puzzle to figure out when you have nothing else to do.

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