

# Rock'n'roll explained

By Chuck Jagoda

On the 25th anniversary of the deaths of Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper, it behooves us to consider the nature of the musical tradition to which these three made their contributions.

The three died in the crash of a small plane they were taking from Clear Lake, Iowa to their next concert in Minneapolis. The tragic accident ended the artists' lives but not their influence.

The Big Bopper (J.P. Richardson) was a disc jockey who had only one hit, "Chantilly Lace," but no list of 50's oldies but goodies would be complete without it. Richie Valens (biggest hit — "La Bomba") was the first member of the Latin school of rock 'n' roll, which includes the likes of Trini Lopez, Jose Feliciano and Carlos Santana.

It is Buddy Holly, however, who was to have the greatest influence. His string of hits, including "Peggy Sue," "Not Fade Away," "That'll Be The Day," "Rave On," and "Oh, Boy," were not only huge hits in their initial release but have been covered by major artists like The Grateful Dead, and The Rolling Stones and John Lennon. Former Beatle Paul McCartney purchased and now owns the copyrights to Holly's songs.

Holly's life is the subject of the movie, "The Buddy Holly Story," his death the subject of a none-minute Don McLean song, "American Pie," and his music the subject of annual festivals in this country (Clear Lake, Iowa, Feb. 4 and 5) and even

larger ones in England.

So what is this music that moved these people for the past 25 years? As with any living art form, definitions tend to be descriptive and tentative rather than comprehensive and complete.

The term rock 'n' roll coined by Cleveland disc jockey Alan Freed, to describe a form whose classic age can be dated from the release of Bill Haley and the Comet's "Rock around the Clock" to the Beatles' first hit "I Want To Hold Your Hand" in 1963. It flourished in the music of such archetypes as Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Dion and the Belmonts, the Platters, Carl Perkins and the one they called the king of rock 'n' roll, Elvis Presley.

The archetypical rock 'n' roll song presents youth in rebellion against the constricting values of an adult world. The subject is usually young love — yearned for, pursued, lost or gained (sometimes all of the aforementioned). Sometimes cars or merely the state of rebellion is celebrated. As important as the message is the tone in which it is delivered. To be classic, it must be sung in a whine of insolence — the verbal equivalent of James Dean's sneer. The themes and the whine rose with the post World War II population and affluence and were the first sounds of the rebellion that flowered in the 1960's. It continues in its various hyphenate-hybrid forms as well as neo-classical revivals by artists like Bruce Springsteen, George Thorogood and the Destroyers, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers and The Stray Cats.

# TAME TUITION COSTS



## Pay For Your Credit Hours With A Few Of Your Spare Ones

Become a plasma donor! Each donation takes only about 1½ hours and earns you \$10. You can donate twice weekly (but please wait 72 hours between donations).

You can earn up to \$95 a month. Which could easily pay for a semester in a semester.

Fight the costs of higher education! Call today for an appointment.

### University Plasma Center

1442 O Street 475-8645

Open: Tues.-Wed.-Fri. and Sat. 8 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Mon and Thurs. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Licensed by the FDA

UN No. 44

# TONIGHT AT STOOOGES

# 4-fers



# 2PM-10PM

EXPERIENCE KIMBALL

IN OPERA LINCOLN

UNL Opera Theatre presents  
Puccini's *Il Trittico* (the Triptych)  
Gianni Schicchi — a rollicking farce  
*Il Tabarro* — melodrama brooding with passion & murder  
Suor Angelica — tragedy set in quiet confines of a convent

Three Short Operas Sung in English  
February 3, 5 & 6

Remaining tickets for Prague Chamber Orchestra and Twyla Tharp on sale to UNL Students beginning Jan. 31. On sale to others beginning Feb. 7.

Prague Chamber Orchestra  
Sunday, Feb. 13 at 8pm

Twyla Tharp Dance Foundation  
Tues & Wed, Feb 15 & 16 at 8pm

This program is supported in part by funding from the Nebraska Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, Dance Touring Program and the Mid-America Arts Alliance

KIMBALL HALL 11&R  
Box Office (11-5)  
113 Music Bldg, 11th & R  
472-3375  
University of Nebraska Lincoln

ORDER NOW! LIMITED SEATING! AVAILABLE!

OPERA/OMAHA PRESENTS



# Sausi

A tale of sorcery, black magic & passion set to magnificent music

IN ENGLISH

BY CHARLES GOUNOD

SINGLE TICKET PRICE RANGE \$4 - \$18

Tuesday, Feb. 8th and Friday, Feb. 11th at 8 PM  
Special Sunday Matinee, Feb. 13th at 2 PM  
Orpheum Theatre

Weekend Tour Packages Available  
Phone: Younkers Travel Service Collect 402-397-3800  
Single tickets available at Brandeis Ticket Centers or phone Opera/Omaha, 402-346-0357.

20% STUDENT DISCOUNT