



Photo by Mica Kubick

Dave Marsh, 26, a senior German student at UN-L, plays at 13th and O.



Photo by David Lavender

Wanda von Priessig, receives a donation.

Musicians expose people downtown to folk music

BY BILL CONRADT

Do you find the daily routine of lunch boring? If so, try something new and walk down to 13th and O St. where street musicians play traditional English, Irish or French folk music.

Stop or slow your pace and listen to music and instruments you don't hear on the radio. Depending on the day you can hear musicians play the concertina (a small accordion), penny whistle, banjo, accordion, English bagpipes or other traditional instruments.

These street musicians are professionals who love their music and wish to share that love with others.

For Chris Sayre, playing the concertina outside Miller and Paine helps him be a self-sufficient musician. Sayre plays with the band Northwynd and also does solo and duet performances.

"It's kinda like the American dream in a way," Sayre said, because he is doing what he wants to do.

"I'm trying to see if I can make a living off my music," Sayre said. He has a dream, he said, to be a self-sufficient musician as long as he is happy doing it.

Sayre, who has played on the streets in Boston and New Orleans, said he first started playing in Lincoln in front of Memorial Stadium before University of Nebraska-Lincoln football games last September. He decided to move to 13th and O streets in October, he said, to see if Lincoln could handle street musicians.

"Immediately, people were very kind to me," Sayre said. It is neat to have the support he has received, he said, and considers it something very special. It was difficult at first, though, he said, because he was the only musician and he felt novel.

Dan Newton, who also plays with Northwynd and Last Call, said he plays on the corners because it's good practice and he too wants to support himself by being a full-time musician. Newton considers street music good for the city, especially during the summer when children are introduced to new styles of music.

Newton can be heard outside J C Penny's usually three days a week playing the accordion and penny whistle, he said.

For Dave Marsh, street music is a way to expose people to music he appreciates and that is hard to find. Marsh said fewer bars offer live music, making it more difficult to find bars to perform at. Most bars don't want to take a chance with a band that plays music (traditional folk) that so few people are familiar with, Marsh said.

"You can't find it anywhere else unless you look for it," Marsh said.

Sayre said he hopes the street music will spur people to get more interested in traditional music. People are needed to support this style of music, he said.

All three said they have received good response from pedestrians.

A few people dislike it, Sayre said. One or



Photo by David Lavender

Chris Sayre plays his concertina.

two people have told him they can't understand why he's doing it.

When someone tells him they like what he's doing, he said, it makes him feel like he is part of this world doing something very positive.

"I take what I do very seriously . . . I work to do the best I can," Sayre said.

Marsh said he receives several comments every day from people who thank him or tell him they like his music. Most of the \$10-15 he receives each day, he said, comes from women 50 or older or from children.

Businessmen acknowledge street music the least Marsh said. Marsh said some of them like to jingle their money as they walk by or they will walk up to him just to see how much money he has in his case.

Sayre said his best day was last fall when one woman gave him \$20 and another woman gave him \$10. He took home \$50 that day, Sayre said. At that time, he normally took home only \$20 a day.

All the street musicians belong to the Lincoln Association for Traditional Arts, Sayre said. LAFTA, Sayre said, offers a forum by which the musicians can advertise, share ideas and learn whose coming to town.

"We have a nice support system," Sayre said.

SUMMER NEBRASKAN

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Day care centers available at UN-L

BY JOAN MORRISON

Three full-time child day-care centers are open this summer for children of University of Nebraska-Lincoln students and faculty.

Valdeen Nelsen, director of the University Child Care Project, said both the Infant Care Center at 640 N. 16th St., and the Child Care Center, 333 N. 14th St., are still taking children.

A summer day camp for school-age children is also available, she said. The day camp is located at the Lutheran Student Chapel and Center, 535 N. 16th St., and St. Mark's-on-the-Campus, 1309 R. St.

The centers are open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and provide a wide variety of activities for children. Two meals and a snack are served each day.

Ms. Nelsen said the weekly rates are \$56 for infants and 1-year-old children, \$48 for children 2 to 5 years old. The rates are comparable to other day-care centers in Lincoln, she said.

Financial assistance is available, she said. Although children of low income students are given first priority, children of other students, faculty and the general public can use the facilities, space permitting.

Interested parents may call Valdeen Nelsen, 475-0120 for more information.

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