

Arts & Entertainment

Pianist lives life on a positive note

By Kathy Glenn

Larry Lusk considers himself one of the lucky ones. For 25 years, Lusk has been teaching and playing piano at UNL and according to him, that's exactly what he's always wanted to do.

He now is accepting the challenge of becoming a concert pianist and he said he sees it as an opportunity to meet other musicians, as well as performers.

"I've never played that much out-state," Lusk said, "but recently I started playing at colleges around the state and then just decided I wanted to really get out and play around the country."

Lusk will play several concerts across the country, including appearances at Washington State University, the University of Wyoming, the University of Idaho and the University of South Dakota. He will also perform at the Lincoln Center in New York City as part of a series sponsored by the New York Public Library. The Minneapolis Institute of Arts is also on his tour agenda.

Lusk will begin his tour tonight at 8 p.m. at the Kimball Recital Hall. Tonight's concert is free and open to the public. The program includes Haydn's "Sonata in C Major" and Beethoven's "Sonata in E Minor."

Lusk said he is comfortable with the concert schedule. The university has been very supportive, he said. The Research Council and College of Arts

and Sciences contribute funds to professors to help offset traveling expenses. Without such backing, the cost of going on tour would be very high, he said.

Careful planning allowed this season's tour to fit into Lusk's teaching schedule. With the help of graduate assistants, he'll be able to maintain his normal class load.

Although he didn't get involved in music until the fifth grade, his goal has always been to play and teach music, he said. It hasn't always been easy and piano study can become very lonely, Lusk said. However, the results are quite rewarding.

This year, instead of performing a single program, Lusk has prepared two full programs and his challenge has kept him quite busy, he said.

Lusk seems to thrive on extra work. In addition to his other numerous duties, he also is serving as temporary chairman of the UNL art department and has found it a full and enlightening experience, he said.

Lusk said anyone who works hard enough can be a success at what they do and he speculated that his own personal accomplishments can be attributed to maintaining a positive attitude. The up-coming tour has necessitated many long months of preparation and auditioning, he said.

"I think you make things happen for yourself. I really believe that," Lusk said. "I think I'm happy with life because I do what I want to do."



Staff photo by Craig Anderson

UNL Professor Larry Lusk

Vien-Dong dining for cuisine extraordinaire

When the Vung Tau restaurant closed last month I wondered where I would find Vietnamese food. I considered knocking from door to door until I found a friendly family to take me in and feed me fried rice and sweet-and-sour shrimp.

Fortunately for me, and the rest of Lincoln's Vietnamese food fans, the Vien-Dong, 242 N. 13th St., opened soon after the Vung Tau folded. The location is the same although the menu has been enlarged.

Duyng Thuy T. Nguyen and her family opened the Vien-Dong — translated "Far-East" — Sept. 1. Very



Chris Welsch

few changes have been made in decor: the plates are still paper, the lamps are still oriental and the tables and chairs are in the same places.

Nguyen said the food served at her restaurant is the food she and her family eat at home.

Vietnamese food and Chinese food taste differently although the names of the dishes are the same, Nguyen said.

Chinese food is starchier, and perhaps uses more vegetables, she said.

Nguyen and her family came to the United States from Vietnam in 1975. They fled the country with thousands of others when the Communist takeover began. The Nguyens owned a restaurant in Vietnam, and when given the opportunity to buy the Vung Tau, Nguyen took the chance.

The Vien-Dong has a wide range of dishes to choose from and the food is better than ever.

The waiter brought the four of us hot tea to begin the meal. Freshly brewed and just the right temperature, it was the perfect remedy for the hideous cold outside.

We then stuffed our faces with hot won-ton soup, fried won-tons and some egg-drop soup. The won-ton soup was slightly weak and watery, like French-onion soup. The fried won-tons were pieces of pork wrapped in a fine shell. They were full of palate-pleasing taste, and \$1.50 seemed like a fair price for six of them.

The egg-drop soup outshone the won-ton soup. Very flavorful and full of chives, spices and egg drops.

On to the main course. I had ordered the \$3.50 lunch special of sweet and sour shrimp.

The China plate was mounded with two piles. First and foremost was the shrimp, lots of shrimp, covered with high-quality sweet sauce. By itself, the shrimp was too sweet. The added vinegary sour sauce made the package truly complete.

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WEEKEND

The following is a list of local events, for the coming weekend beginning tonight.

ART EXHIBITS

Burkholder's Studio Five, 720 O St. — "Do Those Whom We Encase in Concrete See and With What Vision?" an exhibit of inmate art. Today through Monday.

Haymarket Art Gallery, 119 Ninth St. — Paintings and batik by Linda Stych through Sunday. Also, art by Mary Byington through Sunday.

The Gathering Place, 1448 E St. — Oil paintings by Gwen Hoffer, today through Sept. 30.

Sheldon Art Gallery, 12th and R streets — Photography by John Pfahl and Victor Schraeger, landscape by Harry Oryk through Oct. 2. Ceramics by Martha Graham and new acquisitions through Oct. 9.

"20 Artists," a special exhibit will be Sunday from 1 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 3710 Folsom St.

University Place Art Gallery, 4822 Cleveland Ave. — The work of Nebraska landscape artist Ben Darling, woodcarver Dan Frankforter and jewelry by Nancy Cardisco on display today only. Paintings by Mitch Eggeberg and sculpture by John Cowfer on display beginning Friday. Reception for the artist is Friday from 7 to 9 p.m.

LIVE BANDS

Aku Tik Lounge, 5200 O St. — Allspice tonight through Saturday, no cover charge.

Chesterfield, Bottomsley & Potts — 245 N. 13th St. Cold Spring Friday and Saturday, no cover charge.

Drumstick, 547 48th St. — Charlie Burton and the Cut-outs, tonight through Saturday, \$2 cover charge.

Green Frog, 1010 P St. — High Street, tonight through Saturday, no cover charge.

Judge's, 2630 Cornhusker Highway — Star City Players tonight through Saturday, \$2 cover charge includes entertainment at Little Bo's.

Little Bo's, 2630 Cornhusker Highway — Keystone Friday and Saturday, \$2 cover charge includes entertainment at Judge's.

Little Bo's West, 2650 Cornhusker Highway — Crossfire, no cover charge.

McGuffey's, 1042 P St. — Lincoln Jazz Society tonight, no cover charge.

The Boss, 200 No. 70th St. — Jim Salestrom, tonight through Saturday, no cover charge.

Royal Grove, 340 W. Cornhusker Highway —

Straight Shot, tonight through Saturday, no cover charge.

Stadtrack, Seventh and P streets — John Bryan and Joyce Duran, Friday and Saturday, no cover charge.

The Zoo, 136 N. 14th St. — Dog People, tonight through Saturday, \$1.50 cover charge tonight, \$2 Friday and Saturday.

MAJOR EVENTS

Pershing Auditorium, 226 Centennial Mall South — Roger Williams, Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Iron Maiden, Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

MOVIES

Cinemas 1 & 2, 13th and P streets — "Chained Heat," tonight only at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.; "The Final Option," 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.

Cooper, 5400 O St. — "Vacation," 5:45, 7:45 and 9:45 p.m.

Douglas 5, 13th and P streets — "Easy Money," 5:25, 7:25 and 9:25 p.m.; "Flashdance," 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.; "Mr. Mom," 5:40, 7:40 and 9:40 p.m.

East Park 3, 66th and O streets — "Easy Money," 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.; "Mr. Mom," 5:20, 7:20 and 9:20 p.m.; "Nightmares," 5:35, 7:35 and 9:35 p.m.

Joyo, 6012 Havelock Ave. — "Curse of the Pink Panther" tonight 7:30 p.m. "WarGames" begins Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Sheldon Film Theatre, 12th and R streets — "Smithereens" tonight through Saturday, 7 and 9 p.m. "Smash Palace," begins Sunday at 7 and 9 p.m.

State, 1415 O St. — "Tootsie" 7:25 p.m. and "Survivors" 9:25 p.m.

Stuart, 13th and P streets — "Return of the Jedi," 1:30, 4, 7:14 and 9:40 p.m.

UPC-American Film Committee — "The Exorcist," in the Nebraska Union Rostrum, tonight and Friday at 7 and 9:15 p.m.

THEATER

Cotner Heritage Dinner Theatre, 1640 No. Cotner — "Blithe Spirit," Friday through Sunday. Dinner at 7 p.m., show at 8 p.m.

Kimball Hall, 11th and R streets — "Gertrude Stein, Gertrude Stein, Gertrude Stein," Sunday at 8 p.m.

Lincoln Community Playhouse, 2500 So. 56th St. — "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," Friday through Sunday at 8 p.m.

Star City Dinner Theatre, 300 N. 66th St. — "Wild Flowering of Chastity," dinner at 6:30 p.m., show at 8 p.m.