

Small Lincoln crowd hears newer Rank and File sound

By Tom Mockler
Staff Reporter

Probably the most noteworthy event of Rank and File's Wednesday night appearance at the Drumstick was the lack of appearance by an audience.

Concert Review

Nobody (not literally, mind you) showed up.

At its height, there were perhaps 50 people there, out of a capacity of 450. I guess Rank and File never



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan
Chip Kinman

quite caught on in Lincoln. Maybe people were waiting for the Del Fuegos last night.

This isn't all bad, because it lets you walk in at 9 p.m. and get a front-row seat and excellent bar service, not to mention being able to use the bathroom. Still, it was somewhat of a surprise. When Rank and File played in Iowa City a year ago, 500 people showed up.

Lincoln's own Reno Brothers opened the show, warming up the crowd of 20 with a rousing set of cowpunk. The Renos sound a bit like Jason and the Scorchers. They don't have quite the energy or the flair, but they're definitely one of the more exciting bands on the local scene. Some of their material spread into the REM/Let's Active world of rural mysticism, but the high point of their act was a revved-up version of "King of the Road." That, and the lead guitarist's confederate war coat.

Rank and File took the stage at 11:15 p.m. and broke into their near-classic "The Conductor Wore Black." This was truly a time for dancing. The audience knew how small they were, as did the band, and seemed to say "Ah, what the heck," and had a good time anyway. Rank and File is on a three-week tour, apparently working out new

material in front of a live audience before they head into the recording studio for their next album. As a result, there was a generous amount of new material.

It is hard to evaluate what direction Rank and File is taking. Their new guitarist, Jeff Ross, is definitely talented. He played the riffs on their new material, while Chip Kinman handled the leads on their older songs. They seem to be aiming more for the mainstream.

Their new material runs the spectrum from country to rock, and although I had one opportunity to get acquainted with it, my reaction is to prefer the original, "classic" formula. While Rank and File works as a pretty fair rock band, they simply lack the character of their original post-punk minimalistic country and western sound.

It's hard to say how things will sound once they've thoroughly worked through their new material.

After running through a set that had a new-to-old material ratio of 60-to-40, they came on for an encore, prompted by as much noise as 50 people at the Drumstick can make. Unfortunately, the weak turnout might scuttle future trips to Lincoln. Then again, maybe the band will view it as unconquered territory.

East chorus performs

UNL's University Chorus-East will present a Christmas program Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in the Great Plains Room of the East Union.

The chorus will present a number of traditional Latin, French and German Christmas carols and a medley of popular seasonal favorites. A performance of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" set to music by Ken Darby and arranged by Harry Simeone also will be performed.

Soloists for the performance include Corrine Brown of Leigh, Jody Knapp of Ord and Pam Johnson of Virginia.

Vena Genuchi Alesio will be accompanying the 60-voice chorus on piano and also will perform as a vocal soloist.

Also on Sunday, the Sheldon Art Gallery will have a tree trimming party from 2 to 5 p.m. Admission to the party

is one ornament for the gallery Christmas tree.

Music of the holiday season will be featured in lunch-time concerts in December at the state Capitol, where choral groups will perform in the rotunda Wednesdays at noon.

Wednesday's performance features the Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir under the direction of William Wyman. Music by Poulenc, Herzogenberg, Hunter, Cockshott, Sargent and Bruckner will be included.

The Southeast High School concert choir will present a recital on Dec. 18. A variety of holiday music will be performed by the 75 juniors and seniors, directed by Tim Sharer.

The lunchtime concerts are free and open to the public.

Plot is pure Heinlein

CAT from Page 9

The plot is pure Heinlein. Two inordinately charming, skilled and lethal people get married and someone immediately begins to try to kill them. This leaves our heroes with the problems of finding out who's after them and staying alive while doing it. Once they figure that out, things get complicated.

There are pirates on the moon, assassins on a space station, secret pasts, disguises and a dimension-hopping kitten named Pixel.

People who read "The Number Of

the Beast" a few years ago and were confused by the ending will be relieved to know that Heinlein finally explains what was going on in that book.

But "The Cat Who Walks Through Walls" stands on its own. It's not a sequel in any ordinary sense of the word. Still, this is not Heinlein's best book. If you've never read Heinlein before, start with "The Puppet Masters," "Starship Troopers" or "Friday." But this is a fun book to read. Get it if there's a S.F. fan on your Christmas list or if you're looking for something light to read during vacation.

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