

Arts & Entertainment

Scholars discuss Hispanic literature

More than 100 foreign language scholars from colleges and universities across the country will participate in the annual Mid-American Conference on Hispanic Literature Oct. 15-17 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Catherine Nickel, conference director and UNL professor of modern languages, said the event will feature sessions on the literature of Spain and Central and South America. "We'll have sessions devoted to all aspects, genres and periods of Hispanic literature," Nickel said.

Medieval Hispanic literature, the Golden Age of Drama, 19th century Spanish women writers and contemporary Latin American authors will be among the topics considered. The conference will include presentations

of papers, foreign videotapes presentations and a workshop on the use of multi-lingual word processors.

Keynote speaker for the event is Andrew Debicki, acting chairman of the Spanish and Portuguese Department at the University of Kansas.

The Mid-American Conference on Hispanic Literature was initiated in 1984 by UNL's College of Arts and Sciences, Office of International Affairs and Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. Since then, the annual conference has been held at the University of Kansas and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Washington University in St. Louis will be the site for the 1988 conference.

For more information about the event contact Nickel at 472-3745.

UNL music prof records organ music of Bach

By Richard Egger II
Staff Reporter

Concert organist and University of Nebraska-Lincoln music professor George Ritchie believes in doing things right.

Perfection sometimes requires incredible steps ... even shutting down traffic to eliminate noise.

For instance, the task of recording the works of Bach on the organ sounded easy enough to someone who has played the organ for 30 years, as Ritchie has.

However, when a large organ could not be transported to a recording studio, Ritchie was challenged.

He wanted to use a Bediant organ located in Cornerstone, 640 N. 16th St., on the UNL campus.

Fine. Because he couldn't move the organ to a studio, the studio would have to come to the organ.

Ritchie is the head of the organ department at UNL. Before that he was chapel organist at Drake University. He has studied with some internationally renowned instructors, including Clyde Holloway and Raymond Boese.

After receiving his doctorate from Indiana University, Ritchie continued his organ studies. He visited Germany and France, where he studied with noted organists Helmut Walcha and Andre Isoir.

George Ritchie's "The Organ Works Of J.S. Bach" is available on both compact disc and cassette at Keelan's Music.

Recording the music was a chore. After the initial sound-checks of the recording equipment at Cornerstone, Ritchie found yet another obstacle: Too much exterior noise was being picked up by the microphones.

"Due to the sensitivity of the digital recording equipment, I decided that I would have to try to eliminate as much excess noise as possible," he said.

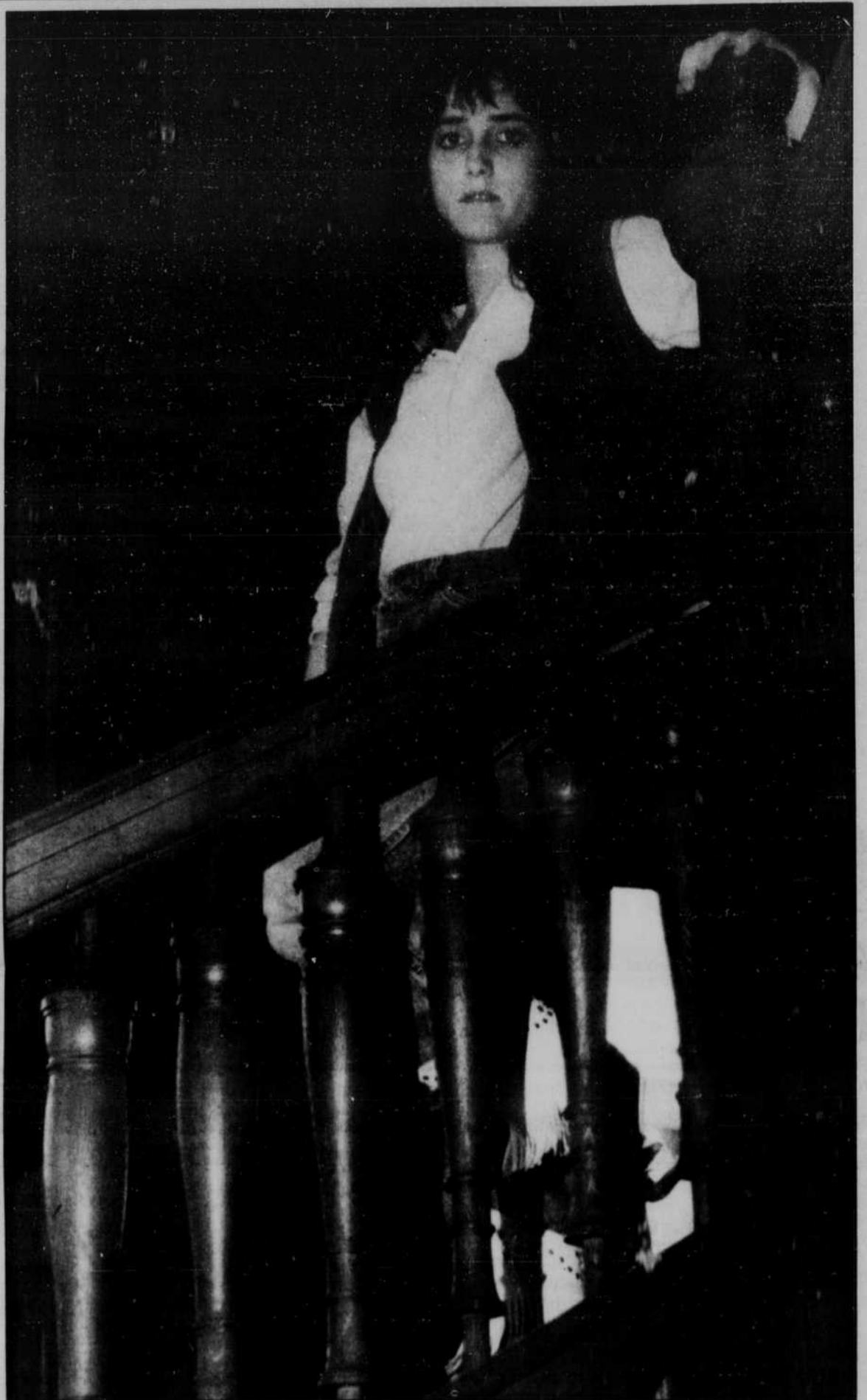
First, Ritchie needed to reduce any possible noise within Cornerstone. He turned off the building's heating system. But it was winter, and without heat his fingers became cold and he could not play as well as he normally could.

His next idea was to use a portable space heater. This was also too noisy.

Ritchie turned back on the building's heating system and the sound meters were once again checked. He decided that this would not affect the recording too much.

Another problem arose because of the location of Cornerstone. It is on a heavily-traveled street, surrounded by residence halls and Greek houses.

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Ward Williams/Daily Nebraskan

Laurie McClain

Local singer makes comeback, plans a move to Nashville

By Bill Allen
Senior Editor

Two years ago, when Laurie McClain started singing again, she didn't even own a guitar. She had to borrow one from a friend. Her repertoire was just a lot of popular cover tunes.

Concert Preview

Two months ago, McClain released her second album, "Gettin' Out Alive."

The Lincoln singer/songwriter also is playing quite a bit around town lately. Tonight she will sing at the Zoo Bar and Thursday she will be at Chesterfield's. The cover charge is 50 cents and \$1, respectively.

McClain said she has about 20 original songs that she plays in her show. Most of the songs are from

her second album, and her first effort, a hastily put together 11-song set titled "Brand New Start" — "the corniest title in America," she said.

But the title might have been appropriate.

Two years ago McClain said she was writing mostly about herself.

"I had went through two lousy marriage experiences and was not really sure about what I wanted to do with my life," she said. "I found out I really wanted to sing and write songs."

McClain plays alone, using no back up except her own harmonica, depending on her guitar skills and her strong clear voice.

McClain said that in her recent work she has moved more toward a country sound, and began writing songs about other people. She said one of her new songs, "Almost All

Right," is about a friend of hers. "There's a lot to write about," she said. "I'm trying to write more songs where I see things through others eyes."

McClain still does a number of cover songs in her live show, including songs by John Prine, Bruce Springsteen, Nancy Griffith, Steve Earl and Neil Young.

McClain said she plans to move to Nashville in the spring, after graduating from Southeast Community College in surgical technology. She said she hopes to find a job in Nashville in that field and pursue her musical career.

"Something inside of me says to do it," she said. "When I first started, the songs were there, but the feelings weren't. I was just too scared."

"Gettin' out Alive" costs \$7 and is available in local record stores.



George Ritchie

Courtesy of Ritchie