

Silos satisfy musical appetites

By Geoff McMurtry
Senior Editor

With a name that seems found on an abandoned farm and a sound straight from the isolated, dusty backroads of roots-rock country pop, the Silos — from New York City, no less (get a rope) — have suddenly become the American music press's new critical darlings.

Band Preview

They're the darlings even though their two independent albums are all but unavailable to the unwary masses.

Using a layered guitar-pop sound textured with pedal steel guitar and fiddle — violin if you're in New York — the Silos have managed to endear

themselves to nearly every rock critic in the nation while confusing and even downright confounding most of them. While the musical press raves about how the Silos are their favorite new band, the band gets compared to everyone from the Velvet Underground to Camper Van Beethoven with a few side mentions of Gram Parsons-era Byrds and Flying Burrito Brothers thrown in.

Take all of these wildly disparate sounds, weave them together and set Walter Salas-Humara's atypically poetic lyrical topics against them and you begin to understand what everybody's talking about.

Instead of the more typical rock 'n' roll themes — drugs, cars, running away, personal failures, "rockin' you all night" — Salas-Humara uses

seemingly small, personal topics of little or no interest to us such as weddings, family reunions (someone else's, not even his) — and ends up reminding the listener what's really been important all along without sounding mundane or middle class.

The Silos have two albums out on New York's tiny Record Collect label: 1986's "About Her Steps" and the recently released "Cuba." Both albums are, as they say, "critically acclaimed," and present an engagingly interesting band coming into its own. It's worth a look.

The Silos will be at the Ranch Bowl, 1606 S. 72nd St. in Omaha, Wednesday. Opening band will be Omaha's Tipsey Alligator. The show starts at about 9:15 p.m. Cover charge is \$2.

Theatrix will present musical this weekend

"Broadway Melodies," a three-act musical revue of memorable Broadway productions, will be presented by Theatrix Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the Temple Building's Studio Theater, 12th and R streets.

Theater Preview

The revue will be directed by Keith Grant, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln assistant professor of theater arts. Act 1 features a series of love songs that trace a relationship from the lovers' first meeting, to their separation and then to their reunion.

Act 2 has music from "Sunday in the Park With George." Act 3 highlights five selections from "Sweeney Todd."

Heading the cast is Kevin Paul Hofeditz, an associate professor of theater arts. The rest of the cast includes UN-L students Karen Zrust, Vince Learned, Shaun Harner, Kim Walker, Craig Ellingson, Todd Brooks and Yvonne Anderson.

Admission is \$1 for students and \$2 for the public. Reservations can be made in advance by calling 472-2073.

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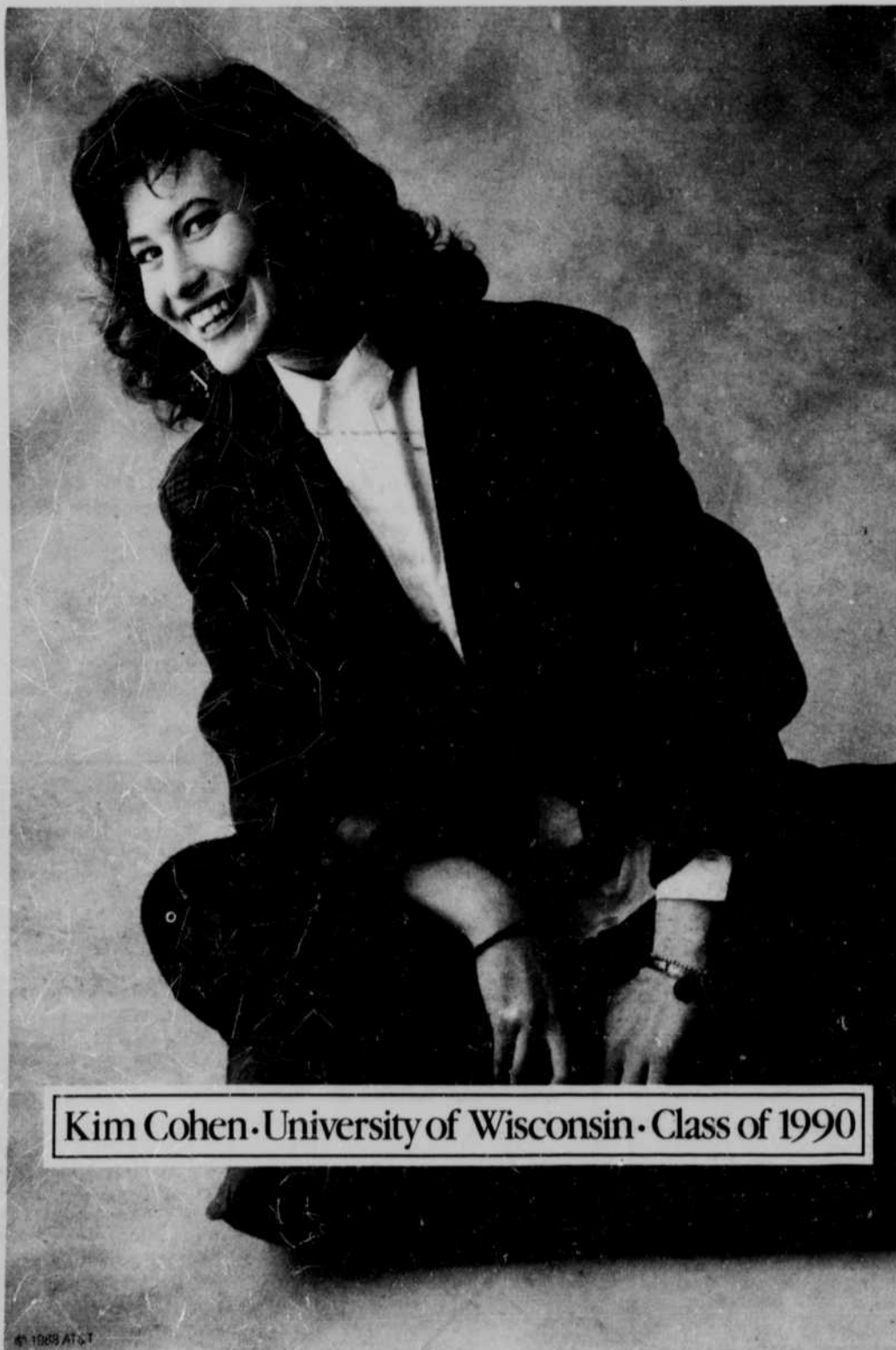
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