

## Yellowjackets add acoustics to jazz songs

By Julie Naughton  
Staff Reporter

The Yellowjackets' newly released album, "The Spin," combines beautiful jazz melodies with acoustic instruments.

This wonderful blend is created by band members Jimmy Haslip, bass; Russell Ferrante, keyboard/composition; Marc Russo, saxophone and William Kennedy, drums/percussion.

### album REVIEW

Especially pleasing cuts on this album are "Prayer for El Salvador," "Whistle While You Walk" and "Enigma."

"Prayer for El Salvador" is a peaceful song that group members call a dedication to the people of El Salvador. It is about a family friend from El Salvador.

"Whistle While You Walk," another Ferrante composition, is an upbeat adventure, a marriage of straight-ahead jazz and quirky elements. The introduction is a variation on the blues. Ferrante said the cut was inspired by work musicians Miles Davis and Michael Brecker.

"Enigma," a creation in B major, is by far the best cut on the album. The song twists and turns in strange directions and somehow manages to come together at the end. The song, which sounds like a puzzle being pieced together, was composed by Ferrante and Haslip.

Rounding out the album are the cuts "Geraldine," "The Spin," "Storytellers," "Dark Horses" and "Blues for Nikki."

"The Spin" is the Yellowjackets' ninth album. The first four, "Yellowjackets" (1981), "Casino Lights/Live at Montrux" (1982), "Mirage a Trois" (1983), and "Samurai Samba" (1985), were released by Warner Brothers Records.

After "Samurai Samba," the group moved to MCA Records, which released "Shades" (1986), "Star Trek IV Soundtrack" (1986), "Four Corners" (1987), "Politics" (1988) and "the Spin" (1989). The Yellowjackets produced "The Spin" themselves.

The Yellowjackets have won Grammy Awards in two different categories. In 1986, "Shades" won the R&B Instrumental Performance Award. In 1989, "Politics" won a Jazz Fusion Album Grammy.



Cleveland Quartet

Courtesy photo

## Cleveland String Quartet to begin 'Beethoven Cycle' series of concerts

By Mark Lage  
Staff Reporter

The world-famous Cleveland String Quartet will open the Lincoln Friends of Chamber Music's 1989-90 presentation of "The Beethoven Cycle."

In celebration of the Quartet's 25th anniversary season, LFCM has arranged a series of concerts, lectures and master classes centering on the entire cycle of Beethoven's 16 string quartets, said John Bailey, assistant professor of flute at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Music.

The first two concerts are 8 p.m. today and 3 p.m. Sunday at the Sheldon Art Gallery Auditorium. Bailey will give a pre-performance lecture at 7:30 p.m. today.

"I will give a general introduc-

tion to some of the melodies to be played that night, and, since it's the beginning of the cycle, I will talk in general terms about all the quartets," he said.

### concert PREVIEW

Since the goal of the cycle is to complete all of Beethoven's quartet work, each of this weekend's shows will be completely different, Bailey said.

"His later quartets are monumental -- very large, and very difficult," Bailey said. Therefore, the works have been divided between the early and late periods.

"Every concert will have a taste of each period," Bailey said. Sunday's show will be preceded by a lecture from Christo-

pher Reynolds, a professor of music history at the University of California-Davis, and a noted Beethoven historian. Reynolds will lecture on Beethoven's "Opus 135" at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Sheldon Auditorium. The lecture is open and free to the public.

The Cleveland String Quartet is just beginning its third decade as one of the world's premiere string quartets.

Its members are William Preucil and Peter Salaff, violin; James Dunham, viola; and Paul Katz, cello. The quartet has done much recorded work, has toured throughout the world and has appeared on television several times.

The quartet members perform their music on a rare, treasured

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## Famous organist to bring talents to college recital

By Mark Lage  
Staff Reporter

Mary Preston, an organist known throughout the country, will bring her talents to the Nebraska Wesleyan University campus next weekend.

Preston, who normally plays for the King of Glory Lutheran Church in Dallas, will play an organ recital Nov. 5 in Wesleyan's O'Donnell Auditorium.

### concert PREVIEW

The recital will feature works by Vivaldi, Mozart, Bach and other lesser-known composers.

Preston received early training on the organ in the San Francisco area, and her studies since have led her to a variety of universities, including the prestigious Oberlin Conservatory of Music and North Texas State, where she received her degrees.

Preston has played recitals at conventions across the United States, and has appeared by special request in Paris' Notre Dame Cathedral.

The organist is being brought to Wesleyan by the Lincoln Organ Showcase, a standing committee of the Lincoln Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, said Lauren Wisner, publicist for the Showcase.

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--Wisner

"The group's general philosophy is that for a town the size of Lincoln, there are a good number of good-sized pipe organs," Wisner said.

But not all notable pipe organs are big. The Showcase has had several shows at Wesley Hall, which has an organ that was built after the style of Northern German organs of the 1500s and 1600s, Wisner said.

The Lincoln Organ Showcase has been around since 1980, and sponsors a series of four or five organ recitals a year, Wisner said.

Preston's recital begins at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students. Children under 12 will be admitted free.

## Music ranges from melancholic to manic

By Mick Dyer  
Staff Reporter

The Prairie Wind Quintet thrives on the challenge to fill the community's ears with new and unusual woodwind chamber music.

### concert REVIEW

That's no short order for such a small, fledgling group to fill. But the quintet's performance Tuesday evening at Grace Lutheran Church was a rare treat. It demonstrated the quintet's commitment to fine music, as well as establishing it as a cultural asset to Lincoln and greater Nebraska.

The quintet played four pieces written by German composers, including the Nebraska premiere of "Serenade Without Serious Intentions," by Flemming Weis.

The quintet made the "Serenade Without Serious Intentions" a real musical experience for the audience.

At times the piece was manic and high-spirited -- at times it was sardonic and melancholic. At times the piece was conventionally beautiful and melodic -- at times it was somewhat surreal and dissonant. The piece marched, traipsed, plodded and reeled around the room, much to the audience's delight.

The quintet also played "Quintetto," by Wolfgang Brennstiner; "Quintet, op. 41," by Edvard Moritz; and "Wind Quintet No. 1 in E Flat," by Peter Muller. It was music that required some intellectual effort on the part of the audience, yet the quintet motivated the audience by making the music fun and interesting. It was evident from the quintet's performance that all members are competent and well-educated musicians. The quintet also was well-balanced in performance because no member's ability or presence outshined the others. This allowed the quintet to play some difficult music with apparent ease. It was an outstanding evening of music.

John L. Walker, spokesman for

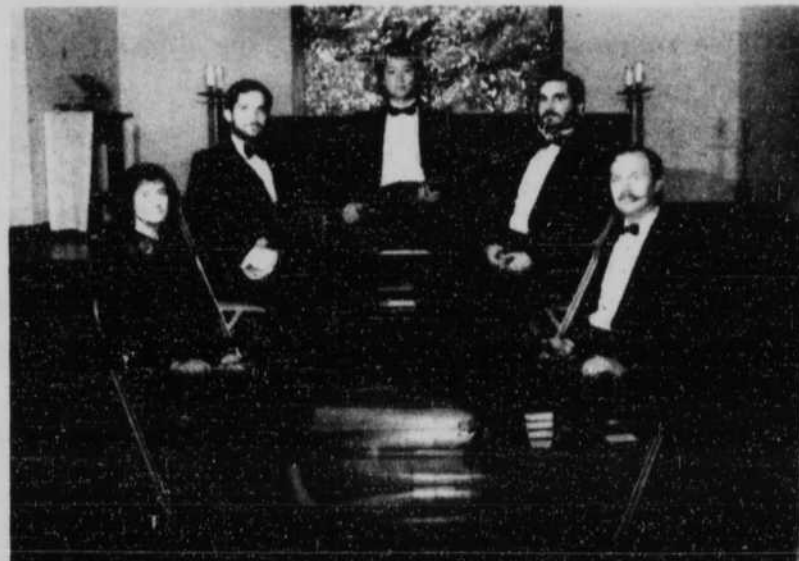
the quintet, said the quintet's purpose is threefold: to give premiere performances of woodwind quintet music that has not been played live in Nebraska before, to perform woodwind quintet music by regional composers and to bring first-class music to people who otherwise may have little exposure to it.

"What we try to do is unique," Walker said.

The Prairie Wind Quintet features Mary Howell, flute; Douglas Stotter, horn; Xia Jin, bassoon; John L. Walker, oboe and Mike Lederer, clarinet.

Walker said wind quintet music is common, but it is difficult to locate sheet music for all but the most popular pieces. That's because the music tends to sit on shelves in music clearinghouses gathering dust, he said. Walker said the quintet works very hard to find these unusual pieces and to premiere them to Nebraska audiences.

"I guess we would be musical sleuths," Walker said. "I spend a lot of time and thought in the planning



Prairie Wind Quintet

Courtesy photo

and procurement of pieces.

"We literally unearth works that otherwise wouldn't be heard," he said.

Walker said it is exciting for the quintet to work on pieces that have

not been performed often. He said since there are few recordings and even fewer written musical criticisms of performances of these pieces, the

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