

# DIVERSIONS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1991



Andy Frederick/DN

Susan Wilson, cellist for the Aidan String Quartet, is pursuing a master's degree in cello performance. See story on page 9.

## Music committee airs women's perspectives

By Cinnamon Dokken  
Staff Reporter

Women's Words and Music, a University Program Council committee, serves as an avenue for women's contributions and perspectives to be aired, the committee's chairperson said.

"Women make up 51 percent of the population, but at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, only 16 percent of the faculty members are women," Tina Pilonetti said. "Women's Words and Music serves to represent women whose voices go unheard."

The committee is made up of a few "hardworking individuals who really care about what they are doing," member Robyn Larsen said. "Performers want to come to Lincoln, and they have an audience. What we try to do is provide them with a stage."

Much work goes into preparing for an event, Larsen said.

Among other duties, committee members decide the date, time and place of the event, handle contracts and publicity and bring in and set up lighting and sound equipment.

Variety and diversity are priorities for the committee, which brings a wide range of women poets, musicians and speakers to campus.

In the past, Women's Words and Music has presented performers such as Phranc, a well-known Jewish, lesbian folk singer. Last March, the committee brought in Dance Brigade, a modern dance troupe based in Oakland, Calif.

From Harlem came Hattie Gossett, an African-American poet. Nationally known speaker Andrea Parrot traveled from New York to speak to UNL students about ac-

quaintance rape.

Last fall, the committee hosted Altazor, a quartet formed by four women of diverse backgrounds who found common ground in Latin American New Song.

More recently, Women's Words and Music organized a concert by The Washington Sisters with Melanie Monsur and Edie Herrold. The African-American duo sang jazz, blues, a cappella, gospel and reggae. The concert site, The Commonplace, was packed with an audience of more than 100 people.

Committee members said they hope this enthusiasm will carry through the semester.

At 8 p.m. on Nov. 16, bell hooks will present a free speech on "Gender, Race and Representation" in the Centennial Room of the Nebraska Union. A professor of English and women's studies at Oberlin College, hooks is the author of

several books including "Ain't I Woman: Black Women and Feminism."

Women's Words and Music also will co-sponsor a talk by Linda Coombs and Ramona Peters this semester. The two Wampanoag women will speak about "What Thanksgiving Means to Native Americans" at 7 p.m. on Nov. 21 at the Culture Center.

Cindy Douglas, assistant to the coordinator of the Women's Resource Center, said Women's Words and Music functions closely in conjunction with the center but is recognized as a separate entity and funded by UPC.

The committee meets at 12:30 p.m. Thursdays in room 117 of the Nebraska Union. Anyone interested is welcome to attend — even men, Pilonetti said.

"We are seeking to empower women, not alienate men."

*"Musical training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way in the inward places of the soul, on which they mightily fasten."*

— Plato

### THIS WEEK: Making Music III: Women's Words and Music

Page 5  
Women's Words  
and Music  
Committee

Page 6  
Linden Looks at  
the Lab

Wimmin's  
Radio

Page 8  
Arbor Moon  
Bookstore

Page 9  
Aidan String  
Quartet

Page 11  
Abridged Jim

Page 12  
Upcoming  
Events

NEXT WEEK:  
Theater