

# Blues

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leathery vocals of Bud Spires are also an unforgettable part of "Devil Blues."

Big Jack Johnson, who was recorded in a lounge, cut "Catfish Blues," "Big Boy Now" and the tear-jerker, "Daddy, When is Momma Coming Home."

Originally, "Deep Blues" was a film soundtrack. British rocker Dave Stewart wanted to document an album on film, paying tribute to the down-home blues and rhythm and blues that has inspired contemporary rock artists.

Stewart contacted Palmer to produce the sound track, and Palmer turned the project into more than a sound track.

Seven of the 15 performances included on the album are not in the film. Even the mixing sessions for the film and album were "completely separate projects," according to the "Deep Blues" biography written by Palmer.

A 24-track recording truck met the musicians on their porches, at house parties, juke joints and clubs, far away from the sterility of modern studios, Palmer said.

Blues musicians featured are Burnside, Junior Kimbrough, Johnson, Frank Frost, "She-Devil" Jessie Mae Hemphill, Roosevelt "Booba" Barnes, Lonnie Pitchford on his electric diddley bow, Owens and Spires.

Listeners don't have to be familiar with these musicians to enjoy their brand of blues.

Just listening to this release could change one's whole outlook on music and certainly help develop a greater appreciation for blues and rock. In that sense, Palmer and Stewart accomplished what they set out to do.

They've unearthed the roots of rock, buried deep in the delta blues — the core of contemporary music.

Listen closely and it is easy to identify the guitar runs that have in-



David A. Stewart and R.L. Burnside contributed to the "Deep Blues" soundtrack.

Courtesy of Atlantic Records

fluenced several American, as well as British musicians such as Eric Clapton, the Rolling Stones and John Mayall.

Indeed, "Deep Blues" is worthy music, and if you squint your eyes at the fine type inside the cover, you'll realize that the 15 tracks of home-

grown blues aren't all that Palmer compiled.

Palmer also has written a short biography on each contributing artist, as well as documenting the why, where and how of producing "Deep Blues."

Palmer writes, "... this is music

from the heart of the heart of rock and roll. PLAY IT VERY LOUD. If the electric guitars aren't slicing your skull and dicing your brains like chain saws from hell, TURN IT UP."

— Jill O'Brien

# Kennedy Center hosts annual gala, bestows many honors

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cyd Charisse danced for Ginger Rogers, Yo Yo Ma led a sea of cellos in a concert for conductor and cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, and Aretha Franklin sang her soul classic "You Send Me" for jazz vibraphonist Lionel Hampton.

Such were the tributes bestowed on this year's Kennedy Center honorees, who attended a gala in their honor at the Kennedy Center Opera House Sunday night.

Honored with Rogers, Rostropovich and Hampton were husband and wife actors Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward and modern dance choreographer Paul Taylor.

At a reception in the East Room of the White House earlier in the evening, President Bush thanked the honorees for their contributions to the arts in America.

"Whether we've tapped our feet to their music, hummed their tunes, glided around our living rooms — something to witness — or grinned at the movie screen, or maybe even waved an imaginary baton," Bush said, "tonight's honorees have delivered a lifetime of performances that have carried us to places and emotions and ideals only the best in the performing arts can reach."

Guests at the White House reception included actors Tom Selleck, Gregory Peck and Sam Waterston, and jazz musician Herbie Hancock.

Walter Cronkite was host of the Kennedy Center gala, which will air on CBS Dec. 30.

# Sixties' author makes comeback with strong Alaskan characters

Since then he has offered only occasional writings, including a ragbag collection of short pieces and children's stories.

But in this, his first substantial literary outing in more than 20 years, Kesey proves that he is still capable of coming up with the goods.

"Sailor Song" is set in Alaska in 1994.

"First you should know why Alaska," Kesey writes in "Sailor Song." "Because Alaska is the end, the finale, the Last Ditch of the Pioneer Dream. From Alaska there's no place left to go."

This is typical Kesey. For him progress always has been associated with movement, with pushing back the frontiers and opening up unexplored areas.

Accordingly and typically, many of the characters in the novel make use of a wide range of drugs, including alcohol, marijuana and scotch, a new designer upper that provides energy and, in exchange, steals REM sleep.

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Kesey's strength and the small town of Kuinak, Alaska, inhabited by Deaps (Descendants of Early Aboriginal People) is rich with personality.

Things change for these characters with the arrival of a Hollywood film crew who want to transform the little village to shoot a version of a classic aboriginal story, "Sea Lion," in the novel penned by a round-eye in the late 20th century.

"Sea Lion," in reality, was published as a children's story by Kesey last year.

Kesey claimed to be writing this novel for the MTV generation, and he utilizes all of his magician's bag of tricks to grab the reader's attention.

Possibly, he overdoes it. If there is a fault with this story it is that the narrative jumps around so much that it is sometimes difficult to keep track of.

Nevertheless, "Sailor Song" is a strong and compelling novel that may succeed in earning Kesey a permanent place in the list of notable authors of this century.

"Sailor Song" Ken Kesey Viking/Penguin Books

By Matthew Grant Staff Reporter

A long time in the coming it has been, but with his new novel "Sailor Song," Ken Kesey once again has proved the critics wrong.

Many had written off the 60s icon and author of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" as an almost-been, a former prophet whose brains were french-fried from all that acid he once so conspicuously took.

Not so. After writing "Sometimes a Great Notion," his second novel, the original merry prankster abandoned the novel as an artistic form.

# entertainment SHORTS

## Music professor to give horn recital

From Staff Reports

Allen French, an assistant professor in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's school of music, will perform a horn recital at 8 p.m. tonight.

French is a member of the Moran Woodwind Quintet and the UNL

Faculty Brass Quintet. He also is the principal horn player for the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra and the Nebraska Chamber Orchestra.

Prior to teaching at UNL, French was an assistant professor of horn at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa.

French will perform with pia-

nist Shirley Irek. Assisting will be organist George Ritchie, soprano Donna Harler, and Zhang Guo-wei and Jolyn Mosher on horns.

The program will include selections by J.S. Bach, Franz Schubert and Alexander Zemlinsky.

The recital will be at Kimball Hall and is free to the public.

## "A Christmas Carol" tickets on sale

From Staff Reports

Tickets are on sale for The University Theatre and Dance production of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

The classic play, an adaptation by Barbara Field originally produced by The Guthrie Theatre, will be staged at the Lied Center for

Performing Arts.

"A Christmas Carol" is directed by Tice L. Miller, theatre, arts and dance department chair, with the assistance of Juliana Hagemeyer and Rob Mc Kercher.

The 82-member cast includes ghosts, 21 children under age 15, two Saint Bernards and a labrador.

Adult tickets for "A Christmas Carol" are \$18 and \$14. Half-price tickets are available for UNL and Wesleyan students and youths 18 and under.

The production will be performed at 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

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Just before the holidays, Francine would always receive a fruitcake.

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