

# Living room makes ideal venue for a concert

## SPOTLIGHT

By Paula Lavigne  
Senior Reporter

Set up a couch and a few chairs, throw a few pillows here and there, and you have the perfect concert venue right in a living room.

This "have concert, will travel" concept is the theme of the Home Concert Association as it turns ordinary homes into concert halls.

The privately funded Home Concert Association sets up performers with hosts in a cozy setting in the living room, dining room or patio of almost any type of house around the Lincoln area.

Ken Hoppmann, the association's artistic director, said this style of musical performance was unique.

"To my knowledge, nothing like this exists anywhere else," he said. "Whereas a lot of organizations will have their artistic niche, we have a location, or atmosphere type of a niche."

Hoppmann, a pianist himself, said the idea for the Home Concert Association came to him after he was invited to perform in a private home.

"The music became much more accessible to everybody. There wasn't that terrible distance," Hoppmann said. "It was much more intimate."

After that, he said he felt an organization devoted to concerts in private homes should be started.

"Music somehow speaks much more clearly to the individual person if there are fewer individuals there," he said.

Although the Home Concert Association is a fairly new concept in the '90s, Hoppmann said, it has a historical precedent.

Most musical concerts prior to and in the 19th century were in smaller places like the king's chambers, he said. In the 19th century, when large concert halls were the rage, Frederick Chopin still decided to perform in private home settings.

While trying to bring this tradition into the 20th century, the association has played host to only two concerts.

The performers love the intimate home setting, he said. They can be more at ease with the ambiance and atmosphere of an informal setting.

"It's a much more relaxed atmosphere, and you don't have all that unnecessary pressure," he said.

He said the hosts could benefit from the concert as much as the performer could.

"If they're a real appreciator of

music, maybe they just want to provide an opportunity for a concert," he said. "I think it's a purely aesthetic experience. Some people just love to have that kind of event in their home."

Hoppmann said a home concert could be an artistic way to showcase a new or newly remodeled home. Both indoor and outdoor private concerts can be arranged. They can either have an invited audience or be open to the public.

Hoppmann said home concerts could be used to feature homes that weren't even built yet. Through a realtor who sits on the association's board of directors, concerts can even be performed on construction sites, he said.

Some homes are more conducive than others for performances, Hoppmann said, but there are no elite requirements.

"As long as everybody can sit down and be reasonably comfortable, that would be it," he said. "Of course, if we had a pianist, we'd have to have a suitable piano."

The concert must also become a social function while still being a concert, he said.

Anything from hors d'oeuvres to a full banquet can be provided by the hosts to accompany the concert. Hoppmann said an English Tea could even be arranged.



Playing host to a concert is free, but Hoppmann said there was a suggested minimum donation that could be paid by the hosts or the guests.

Hosts and performers are often found by word of mouth or through

other organizations, he said. Hoppmann said he encouraged local and university artists to take part in the association's program. Future plans include taking local performers and exchanging them with performers in other states.

# Spielberg will get his due with best picture, director

The stars will again descend en masse for the Academy Award presentation Monday. Front-runners for Oscar wins this year include "Schindler's List," "The Piano" and "In the Name of the Father."

Some exceptional films were shafted in nominations, and although that is a yearly occurrence, we thought some films deserved at least a small mention. Among them: "Much Ado About Nothing," "The Age of Innocence," "Heaven and Earth" and "Carlito's Way."

Last year, staff predictions were nearly dead on (with the exception of Marisa Tomei's win for Best Supporting Actress, and no one could be faulted for that), so here are the Daily Nebraskan movie reviewers' best picks for Oscar winners.

## Best Picture:

Gerry: "The Fugitive" has as much of a chance of winning Best Picture as "Buffy The Vampire Slayer" has of playing at the Ross Film Theater. If "Schindler's List" doesn't walk away with this one, I predict that Munich, Rome, Los Angeles and New York will be burning by midnight.

Anne: Absolutely "Schindler's List." Joel: "Schindler's List." Finally Steven Spielberg gets some recognition.

## Best Director:

G: Spielberg. See my "Best Picture" comments if he doesn't win. Campion is the only other choice here. A: Spielberg. All of the nominees are

brilliant directors, but Spielberg took a personal journey on "Schindler's List" and successfully translated his powerful emotions to the screen.

J: Big Steve's taking this one home, too.

## Best Actor:

G: Too soon for repeats for Day-Lewis and Hopkins, and too few saw Fishburne. Hanks will get this one to acknowledge his jump from successful comedy to successful drama.

A: The Oscar will go to Hanks, although Hopkins gave the performance of his career and Day-Lewis was astounding as always. I missed "What's Love Got to Do With It," so I can't comment on powerhouse Fishburne. No way Neeson.

J: I'd like to see Liam Neeson walk away with this, but I think it will go to Tom Hanks — they can't bunch up the awards too much.

## Best Actress:

G: Too soon for Emma, too few saw Bassett, Winger is a joke, and "Six Degrees of Separation" hasn't been seen enough. I'll go with Hunter with the hope that an Oscar will push her toward more roles in which she isn't allowed to speak.

A: Holly Hunter. Bassett is the only other actress who stands a chance. J: Holly Hunter.

## Best Supporting Actor:

G: Malkovich was hypnotic, but his role was too dark for the Academy

to like him. DiCaprio would win in a perfect world, but since the Academy is still run by old, bald men who don't respect young talent, they'll give it to Jones.

A: This is always the hardest category to predict. I'd give it to DiCaprio or Fiennes, but the Oscar will probably go — erroneously — to Hollywood hotshot Jones.

J: This is a really tough one. It will probably go to Jones, but my personal choice is either Malkovich or DiCaprio. Malkovich was intensely threatening in an Anthony Hopkins sort of way, and DiCaprio was amazingly captivating, but Jones is kind of a fave down at the Oscars.

## Best Supporting Actress:

G: No way for Hunter, Perez is too annoying, and Emma shouldn't have even been nominated. Paquin deserves it, but Kit Culkin threatened to allow Macaulay to go through puberty if Anna won. They'll give it to Ryder, not because she deserves it but in a lame attempt to make up for screwing over DiCaprio.

A: Ryder will take the little gold man home, much to my dismay, even though the kid (Paquin) was much better.

J: I can't believe that Thompson is even in this one; she wasn't in the show long enough to support a cured alcoholic. I pick Perez.

— Gerry Beltz, Anne Steyer, Joel Strauch

## Academy Award Nominees

### Best Picture

The Fugitive  
In the Name of the Father  
The Piano  
The Remains of the Day  
Schindler's List

### Best Director

Robert Altman ("Short Cuts")  
Jane Campion ("The Piano")  
James Ivory ("The Remains of the Day")  
Jim Sheridan ("In the Name of the Father")  
Steven Spielberg ("Schindler's List")

### Best Actor

Daniel Day-Lewis ("In the Name of the Father")  
Laurence Fishburne ("What's Love Got to Do With It")  
Tom Hanks ("Philadelphia")  
Anthony Hopkins ("The Remains of the Day")  
Liam Neeson ("Schindler's List")

### Best Actress

Angela Bassett ("What's

Love Got to Do With It")  
Stockard Channing ("Six Degrees of Separation")  
Holly Hunter ("The Piano")  
Emma Thompson ("The Remains of the Day")  
Debra Winger ("Shadowlands")

### Best Supporting Actor

Leonardo DiCaprio ("What's Eating Gilbert Grape")  
Ralph Fiennes ("Schindler's List")  
Tommy Lee Jones ("The Fugitive")  
John Malkovich ("In the Line of Fire")  
Peter Postlethwaite ("In the Name of the Father")

### Best Supporting Actress

Holly Hunter ("The Firm")  
Anna Paquin ("The Piano")  
Rosie Perez ("Fearless")  
Winona Ryder ("The Age of Innocence")  
Emma Thompson ("In the Name of the Father")

DN Graphic

## Music to explore black culture

By Paula Lavigne  
Senior Reporter

From African tribal music to Negro spiritual songs, African-American culture has relied heavily on the music experience.

"The History of Gut Bucket Music," an informal lecture demonstration by musical artist Tiye Giraud, examines this transformation in tradition. It features Giraud exploring the relation of African traditional music to the southern black experience in the United States.

Giraud, a vocalist, percussionist and composer, uses a variety of traditional instruments and vocal styles to take the audience on an international tour of different musical cultures.

"The History of Gut Bucket Music" will be held in cooperation with the Home Concert Association and The Wagon Train Project at the home of Jeff and Michelle Griffith, 1149 S. 17th St., at 7:30 p.m.

A suggested minimum donation is \$10 per person and \$5 for students and seniors.

## Weekend of romance to occur in Omaha

By Jill O'Brien  
Staff Reporter

Spring break offers the opportunity to learn firsthand from publishers, writers and scholars about writing a romance novel.

The second annual Romance Writers & Readers Conference in Omaha, March 25-27, will feature discussion about the publishing and marketing aspects of romance writing, plus tips on writing.

Registration begins at 6 p.m. March 25. Following that, there will be a keynote address featuring romance author Sandra Brown.

The March 26 session opens at

8:30 a.m. with Kathryn Falk of Romantic Times magazine sharing her insight into "The Explosive Romance Market."

Throughout the day, a wide range of workshops and seminars are offered. Topics include "Rape in the Romance," "The Romance: Patriarchy or Feminism?," "Rejection Proofing Your Manuscript," "The New Hero" and "Alternative Romance." Two sessions on "Paperback Publishing Business" will be conducted by Ann LaFarge, executive editor of Zebra Books.

Participants also can visit with literary agents and discuss manuscript ideas.

On March 26 at 7 p.m., a special \$25-a-plate dinner features Zebra's spokesperson and cover model, Tye Damon, who also is a romance novelist.

The conference concludes March 27 with breakfast at the Garden Cafe and a chance to hear author Anita Mills speak.

The conference will be held at the Peter Kiewit Conference Center in Omaha.

Full-time students pay \$35 for general registration, while nonstudents pay \$119. For more information, contact the College of Continuing Studies in Omaha.