

# Daily Nebraskan WEEKEND PREVIEW

For the weekend  
of Dec. 2-4

## Give it a shot

► **Downtown Lights** — The public is invited to the capitol building tonight for a free concert and a chance to see the city lights from the 14th floor of the capitol. The Nebraska Wesleyan Women's Chorus will perform a holiday concert at 6 p.m. and the building will remain open until 8 p.m. to allow concert goers a chance to view the lights.

## Folk punk band inspired by crazy stories

By Joel Strauch  
Senior Reporter

Lincoln band Clarke County will be marking its territory Sunday night with an awesome display of unique music at Duffy's Tavern.

The band has an unusual origin.

Gregg Cosgrove, the band's vocalist and guitarist, said, "I've been a songwriter for a long time, and someone was going to give me money to record a CD.

"So we got together and started playing. The recording never happened, but we stayed together.

"And now we're recording with Dave Snider," said Cosgrove, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate. "We're trying to finish two songs and get them out on a 7-inch.

"We plan to finish the rest of the songs and shop around. Hopefully someone will put it out on CD."

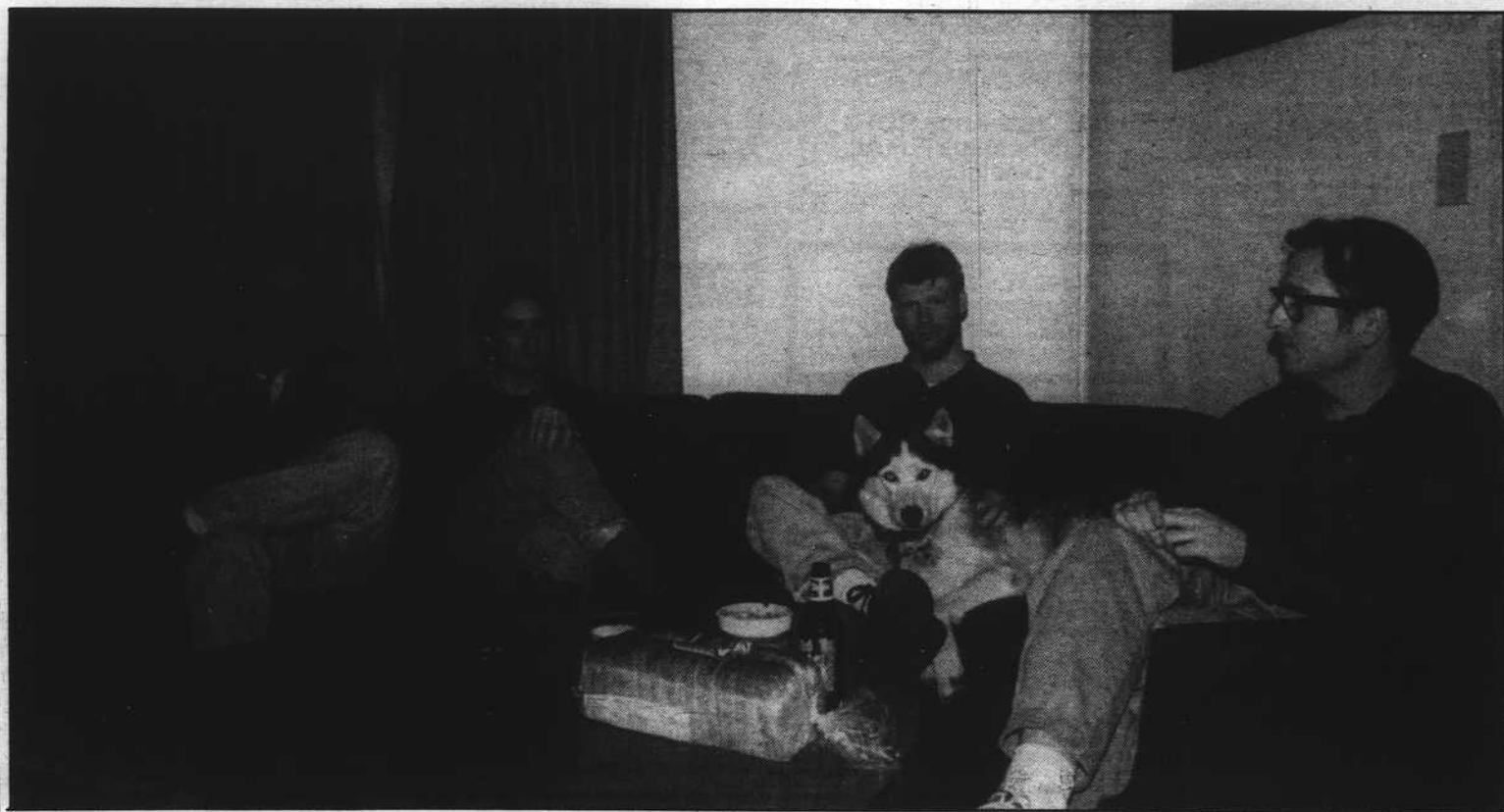
Cosgrove said Clarke County was a real place.

"It's the county in Iowa that I grew up in," he said. "All the songs are written about stories that take place there.

"I heard all these crazy stories about farmers wearing dresses and people dying. They were the kinds of stories that you don't know if they're true, but they become fable-like.

"It's really interesting to write about. It's like Edgar Lee Masters' 'Spoon River Anthology,' where he goes through the graveyard and writes a poem about each person.

"But I don't know how long it will last," he said. "How much can



Scott Steffens/Special to the Daily Nebraskan

The members of the band Clarke County: from left, Barry Zimmerman, percussion; Nancy Cosgrove, accordion; Ben Zimmerman, bass; and Gregg Cosgrove, guitar and vocals. Also pictured is Harley, a Siberian husky.

you milk out of one town?" Cosgrove described the band's music as folk punk.

"It's folk music played with punk aesthetics," he said. "Our songs are all really strong. The strong narratives direct the songs."

The band has changed appearances in the last couple years.

"At first it was just Nancy, a

violin and me," Cosgrove said. "But we added the Zimmermans a year ago."

Nancy Cosgrove, a UNL graduate and Gregg's wife, plays accordion for the band. Ben Zimmerman, a junior geography major, plays bass, and Barry Zimmerman, a junior interior design major, is the band's percus-

sionist. Gregg Cosgrove said the band tried to play about once every other month.

The band now has two shows in one week. Clarke County will play Sunday night at Duffy's Tavern, 1412 O St., and will open for Bad Livers Dec. 9 at Le Cafe Shakes, 1418 O St.

## Quik Facts

Show: Clarke County

At: Duffy's Tavern

Time: 10 p.m. Sunday

Tickets: \$3 at the door

## Gala to include the work of CU composer

From Staff Reports

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Music's annual Choral Holiday Gala will take place 3 p.m. Sunday in Kimball Recital Hall.

The concert will feature four of UNL's vocal ensembles: the University Singers, the Varsity Glee Club, the University Chorale and the Freshman Academy Chorale.

Music from many countries and time periods will be included in the performance.

One of the show's highlights will be the premiere of "The Christmas Motets," by University of Colorado composer Richard Toensing.

Admission is free.

## Quik Facts

Show: UNL Choral Holiday Gala

At: Kimball Recital Hall

Time: 3 p.m. Sunday

Tickets: Admission is free

## Artists use music to blend cultures

By Jill O'Brien  
Staff Reporter

Two cultures become one whenever William Eaton and R. Carlos Nakai merge their music.

Guitarist Eaton grew up in Lincoln — the center of the universe, he called it. Flutist Nakai grew up as a member of the Navajo-Ute tribe.

"I spent a lot of time with extended family members on the Colorado River Indian Reservation, other parts of Southern California, Washington State around Puget Sound, Hawaii and the Four Corners Area," Nakai said.

"I grew up around trees," Eaton said, recalling climbing neighborhood trees.

His occupation as a luthier, a guitar maker, is related to his love of trees, he said. His guitar making led to his co-founding the Roberto-Venn School of Luthiery in Phoenix. It later led to the creation of his lyre-harp guitar, the 31-string O'cle'n and other multi-stringed guitars.

At the time Eaton began building guitars, Nakai began playing the flute.

He picked up the traditional wooden flute in 1972, after an accident ended his ability to play brass instruments, Nakai said.

The instrument had been resigned to museum collections, Nakai said. Very few people knew anything about the flute, other than its romantic history. Nakai said at the time he knew of only three men who took

## Quik Facts

Concert: R. Carlos Nakai and William Eaton, Abendmusik Winter Series

At: First Plymouth Church, 2000 D St.

Time: 7:30 p.m. Sunday

Tickets: Sold out, but tickets may become available.

their flutes on the road in the manner he now does, he said.

"They were primarily involved in traditional music, so I picked it up and began working to see if I could include it in a contemporary context of how we are as Native people today," he said.

Nakai has just finished writing a book based on his travel experiences as a Native American musician. His career with Canyon Records began in 1982 with the album "Changes." Since then, he has recorded 11 more albums and played on 25, he said. "Ancestral Voices," a collaboration with Eaton, earned a Grammy in 1994 for best traditional/folk performance.

"I first met R. Carlos at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona," Eaton said. "A year later, we were playing together. There's really no other flute players who have his vocabulary or sense of timing."

Eaton said he tried to come up with arrangements that gave Nakai's flute playing "a carpet to ride on."

That carpet is marketed in the United States as "New Age" music, Nakai said, even though his music builds on an oral tradition from an older time.

"Much of what I do is a rendition of what we've always been doing through time as Native people," Nakai said. "Our compositions deal with how we are as a people today."

For the Abendmusik Winter Series concert, Nakai and Eaton will perform Christmas music and songs from their albums. They also will include a song from "Feather, Stone, and Light," a new album in collaboration with William Clipman that will be released in early 1995 on Canyon Records.

Eaton recently recorded an album, "Where Rivers Meet." Whether he is recording, building or performing, he is clearly infatuated with wooden instruments.

"The wood grows from the seed of a tree. You see this tree grow up, goes through stages, then dies," Eaton said. "The flutes are the same way. They're wooden. They're cedar. They're related and they're in the same clan."

"I think that's one of the reasons R. Carlos and I were attracted to each other. Even though our cultural backgrounds are different, we're alike in the same ways. We relate as two equal beings addressing each other."