

# Counselor's songs explore soul

By Jeff Randall  
Staff Reporter

When most musicians sing about anger or happiness, they have a pretty good idea of what they are feeling.

But Darryl Parker Tonemah has more than that; he has an expert opinion.

Tonemah, who has spent the last 10 years working toward a doctorate in counseling psychology, is a soon-to-be doctor of psychology ... and a soon-to-be nationally touring rock musician. His first recorded effort, "Can You Hear Me," will likely have national distribution by this summer.

"Songwriting is a way of exploring my soul and discovering how I think," Tonemah said. "And it makes me think about why I think ... metacognition, it's called."

Tonemah and his band, the Folks, play what he described as "... folk, rock, country, barbershop quartet, opera..." with Tonemah as vocalist and guitarist.

"I have to look into myself a lot when I deal with people as a counselor," he said. "And that introspection has helped me to write songs."

"I'm a little less fearful of trying

to understand myself, and I can confront my emotions a little easier than most people, I think."

But, Tonemah said, songs and words come from outer sources just as often as they come from inner ones.

As a descendant of Quanah Parker, a famous chief of the Comanche Indians, and a member of the Comanche, Kiowa and Tuscarora tribes, Tonemah said he often looked to his own culture for musical inspiration.

Historical episodes such as broken treaties and more personal experiences such as racism greatly influence his music, Tonemah said. He said his songs often turned into metaphorical interpretations, a tactic that he borrowed from the Native American tradition of storytelling.

"My inspiration tends to be different from what the actual song is about," Tonemah said, "and that gives people a wider range to interpret them."

Watching people react to his music during live performances, though, was an experience that Tonemah said equalled no other.

"When I get to perform and the crowd is there and they're really into

it, there's nothing that compares to it," he said. "You're really touching somebody, and you can see it touching them."

But the allure of the rock 'n' roll life, Tonemah said, is at odds with his other plans regarding a career in psychological counseling.

"The music thing has really been taking off lately, and I love nearly everything about it," he said. "But psychology is, for me, a more practical way to give back and help out the native people."

No matter where his career decisions take him, though, music will always remain a part of Tonemah's life.

"Music is a passion of mine," he said. "If I didn't have a band and I didn't have a CD, I'd still play in my bedroom every night."

Tonemah will give students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln a chance to see him perform live with his band tonight at 7:30 at the Culture Center.

Admission is free, but donations will be taken to help defray the costs of piano rental and to benefit charities that support Oklahoma City bombing victims.



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# Sneak a peek at local theater

By Gerry Beltz  
Senior Reporter

The Douglas Theater Company will present Sneak-A-Peek II, previews of summer movies, this Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Stuart Theater, 13th and P streets.

LaDawn Capek, Sneak-a-Peek coordinator, said the idea for Sneak-a-Peek actually started from a project she worked on at Doane College last year.

"I studied what motivates people to attend movies," Capek said, "and I found out that trailers were one of the most important factors."

During her time as manager of the Stuart Theater, Capek approached Douglas Theater Company management about Sneak-a-Peek, and they were very receptive to the concept.

"If we (managers) have an idea that will help market movies, they are always willing to work with us."

At this year's Sneak-a-Peek, in addition to a taste of summer movie releases, there will be free pop and

popcorn, as well as a taste-test of concessions items new to Douglas Theater Company concession stands.

Doug Kinney, Lincoln city manager, said there would be a couple of new items to sample at Sneak-a-Peek II, including a new kind of popcorn oil.

"We're trying out PopWise," Kinney said, "a new popping oil that smells and tastes like coconut oil, but has even less fat."

"We already use Pop-n-Light, which has 50 percent less fat than regular oil, but this stuff has even less."

Other trial items include candy samples and chips and salsa. Plus, Lazzari's will be on hand with samples of its pizza, Capek said.

It doesn't stop with just free food and previews, Capek said; there will be prizes, too.

"We've got almost 100 prizes to give away," Capek said, "like 'Crimson Tide' hats, Paramount Pictures T-shirts, and 'Judge Dredd' T-shirts, stuff like that."

About 20 movie trailers will be shown at this year's Sneak-a-Peek,

and Capek said the line-up still wasn't completely set.

"The trailers are still coming in," Capek said.

Choosing which trailers to play was sometimes a difficult decision, she said. Sometimes Capek didn't have a choice.

"A lot of the late summer releases, like 'Under Siege 2: Dark Territory,' just aren't available."

"We tried to pick movies that we thought would have good trailers."

Both Capek and Kinney agreed that Sneak-a-Peek was something Douglas Theater Company would try to put on at least once a year.

"The amount of movies that come out in summer really makes it worthwhile," Kinney said.


Capek also would like to have a Sneak-a-Peek at Christmas time, she said.

"Last year, we didn't have time to get one together, but we would like to have one."

The doors will open at 10:30 a.m., and the trailers will start at 11 a.m. Admission is free.

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