

Series opens classic piano to amateurs

By Jeff Randall
Senior Reporter

Duh-duh-duh-duh-duh. Dah-dah-dah-dah-dah. Doh-doh-doh-doh. Da-da-dee-dee-dee-dum-dum.

Even if "Chopsticks" is all you ever learned on the piano, a Nebraska Public Radio Network seminar could help you learn to appreciate the instrument.

The three-part seminar, entitled "The Piano," will take place Sept. 14, 21 and 28 at the network's studio in Lincoln, said Michele Peon-Casanova, event organizer. The seminar also will be viewed live at 10 satellite downlink sites throughout Nebraska.

But, Peon-Casanova said, participants at the downlink sites will not be idle viewers.

"It will be a truly interactive experience for everyone," she said. "No matter where they are, they can ask questions and make comments directly to the performers."

Nebraska Public Radio-sponsored events such as this one are designed to eliminate some of the elitist stereotypes many people have about classical music and its listeners, Peon-Casanova said.

"I hope this seminar will help the participants realize that classical music is accessible to everyone," she said.

Nicole Narboni, visiting professor of piano, will host the seminar, which will include discussions, question-and-answer sessions and classical piano performances. Mark Clinton and Paul Barnes, co-chairmen of the UNL piano department, and David C. Neely, assistant professor of violin/viola, will also participate in the event.

Preparation for the event involves practice, research and more practice, Narboni said.

"We'll all do our best to show up as ready as possible for any questions that may arise," she said. "Hopefully, we'll be able to call upon the knowledge we as professors should have in this type of situation."

The first part of the seminar will feature husband-and-wife pianists Clinton and Narboni, who have been collaborating since 1986.

Their portion of the seminar is titled "The Dynamic Duo" and will feature keyboard duets and four-hand pieces by composers such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Johannes Brahms and Felix Mendelssohn. Clinton and Narboni will discuss the complexities of performance in general and of duo performance in particular.

"We want to reveal the joys and challenges of performing on stage with another pianist," Narboni said, "because it really is an entirely different experience when compared to solo performance."

Barnes will be featured in the second portion of the seminar, "Samuel Barber and the Dance of History: The Complete Solo Piano Music."

He will explore the relationship between history and music as he performs pieces by Frederic Francois Chopin and Ludwig van Beethoven as well as American folk music.

"I want people to walk away with the idea that all human beings are connected to history in some way," Barnes said. "Music is not created in a void, it is always related to the composer's or performer's surroundings."

The final portion of the seminar, "Music for Violin and Piano," will feature Neely in a combined lecture and performance of violin-piano duo works by Joseph Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. Neely also will discuss the violin's evolution as a musical instrument.

Those interested in participating in the seminar should contact Peon-Casanova at Nebraska Public Radio Network. The registration fee is \$25 and the deadline for registration is Sept. 1.

"The great part about this whole seminar is that you don't have to be an expert to attend or even to contribute to the discussion," Peon-Casanova said.




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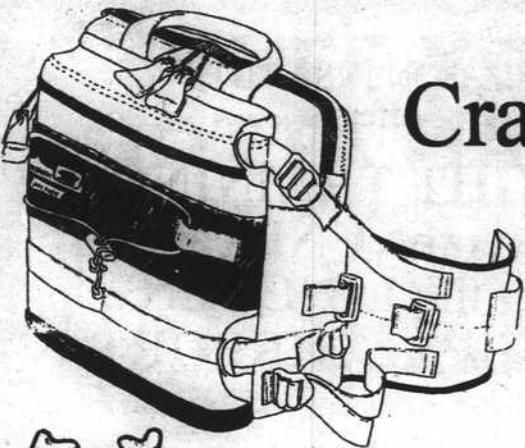








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