

World-renowned pianist brings diversity to Lied

By Jeff Randall
Senior Reporter

When it comes to piano recitals, audiences can often expect either classical or contemporary repertoires, but rarely both.



Not so, as Peter Serkin takes the stage at the Lied Center for Performing Arts. Serkin, widely known for his diverse interest in music from different time periods, will perform tonight. The program will contain works by older, more familiar composers such as Beethoven and more recent artists such as Stefan Wolpe.

This combination of music from romantic and contemporary compos-

ers in one performance is a rare occurrence, said Robert A. Emile, a professor of music at UNL.

Emile will give two pre-performance talks to discuss Serkin and the music he will perform.

A respected artist both on stage and in the studio, Serkin has earned recognition as a soloist, a chamber artist and as a performer with symphony orchestras.

Aside from the opportunity to hear great music from the past and the present, Emile said, Serkin's reputation is reason enough to attend tonight's performance.

"He is one of the world's great pianists," he said. "It's a chance to see piano playing at its best."

Emile's first lecture will begin at 7:05, the second at 7:30; 30 minutes prior to curtain.

The performance begins at 8, and tickets are \$20, \$24 and \$28, and half-price for students.

Danielson

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most of which aren't his own — in the basement of his home — also the location of JJ Popcorn, which he runs with his sister Jo.

JJ Popcorn operates under the label of Ken's Premium Popcorn, which Danielson purchased about three years ago.

Danielson's presence on campus is known at the College of Journalism and Mass Communications, where he sits on the graduate committee and has been an assistant professor in broadcasting for more than 10 years.

Although he isn't teaching at UNL this year, he is teaching a public speaking course at Southeast Community College.

The course at SCC also has been a project for Danielson at ETV to develop a telecourse on speech communication, and the opportunity was like hitting two birds with one stone, he said.

Danielson finds time for another iron in the fire — in his garage. He is the president of the Flatwater Austin-Healey Club, a non-exclusive group, he said.

The club attracts all kinds of people, he said, and has shown a great deal of growth since its beginning.

"Three years ago, we had five or six members. Now we have over 30 members, and that's just members of the club.

"Our contacts in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa represent 300 to 400 British cars."

As if everything else weren't enough to occupy his time, Danielson is also an occasional theater critic for the Lincoln Journal Star and a judge at this year's Lincoln Community Playhouse's Elsie awards.

He attributed his overflowing schedule to family genes.

"I am convinced it is an inherited trait from my father," he said. "The only reason my father retired was because he was too busy to work."

Quartet

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Marquis said.

"You really don't find many jazz stringed instruments. Jazz violinists and jazz cellists are rare. This is one of the few jazz ensembles that's made up of a string quartet."

Students won't have trouble relating to the musicians, he said.

"The Turtle Island String Quartet is a wonderfully accessible musical ensemble with their wit and exuberance projected to the audience."

Providing a total view of jazz today is a goal for the Lied Center this season, he said.

"We have a variety of jazz to offer, from big band to Latin to new artists."

Ed Love, music director of the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra, will present two pre-performance talks in the Lied Center's Steinhart Room.

The free lectures will precede the 8 o'clock concert at 7:05 and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$22, \$18 and \$14, on sale at the Lied Center box office and half-price with a student I.D.

Good releases tug heartstrings

By Gerry Beltz
Film Critic

The last two weeks have brought a flurry of new releases to the video shelves. Some good, some not. The pick-of-the-week is a quiet little comedy with a talented cast of performers playing ... actors?



Annie (Bullock) is a lonely subway attendant who finds herself with a loving family and a moral

dilemma when she saves a man from being hit by a subway train.

The movie is very funny and heartwarming, and well worth renting.

"Tales From The Hood" (R) — Produced by Spike Lee and featuring several recognizable faces (including Corbin Bernsen and David Alan Grier), this flick just doesn't get off the ground.

A trio of hustlers try to rob a funeral parlor (thinking they are getting a stash of drugs), but soon find themselves hip-deep in horror and surrounded by the supernatural.

"Tales From The Hood" didn't play anywhere for very long, so its quality is questionable. Roll the dice.

"The Santa Clause" (PG) — Tim Allen's first big-screen adventure finally comes home for video, and wouldn't you know it, just in

time for the holidays.

Scott Calvin (Allen) is trying to patch up his relationship with his son on Christmas Eve, but ends up riding around the world in place of the laid-up Kris Kringle.

Soon, he starts gaining mounds of pounds and hordes of hairs, and must convince everyone — including himself — that he is Santa Claus.

It's fun. It's heartwarming. It's a keeper.

"Jury Duty" (PG) — Suffering from O.J. withdrawal and have a penchant for overdone, dimwitted humor? "Jury Duty" will be right up your alley.

Pauly Shore plays another zany character who manages to annoy everyone around him (including the audience), this time as a juror dragging out an open-and-shut case so he can enjoy the luxury of free stuff during sequestration.

Music Reviews

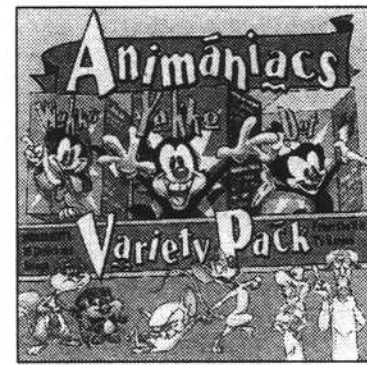
Animaniacs
"Variety Pack"
Kid Rhino
Grade: B+

The Animaniacs, stars of the cartoon show of the same name, have already released their third album.

"Variety Pack" proves the crew has matured since their freshman and sophomore efforts. Well, offerings like "The Anvil Song" aren't quite mature, but they're darn funny.

Previous Animaniacs albums seemed hastily produced. There were a few bright spots, but it seemed like the discs were quickly slapped together to profit from the cartoon's popularity.

"Variety Pack," however, is a wise purchase for children and adults who enjoy the show. The songs feature the same smart, silly



humor that makes the show such a gas.

Make no mistake, this is children's music. It's catchy. It's upbeat. There are no kick-butt guitar riffs.

But the lyrics are riotous — and educational.

Many songs put a silly spin on

childhood lessons such as math, the presidents ("John Quincy Adams was number six/And it's Andrew Jackson's butt he kicks") and "All the Words in the English Language," Parts 1, 2 and 3.

On the latter, Yakko Warner, a dog-like creature, attempts to sing every English word. Of course, he fails, but lines like "Lima and lipid, literature, liquid" are worth a few giggles.

Other highlights include "Cheese Roll Call" — with special appearances by Australian Cheddar, Wensleydale and Brie — and "Dot's Song."

If "Animaniacs" makes you laugh, this album will, too. If you can't tell the difference between this show and a hundred other dumb cartoons, well, try Raffi or something.

— Rainbow Rowell

Strangers

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having dead flowers left on her doorstep and strange notes showing up in her office mail.

The ending? It isn't as obvious as it may seem, but it's stupid nonetheless.

Everybody in "Never Talk To Strangers" really tries to make the film work, but they may as well try to raise the Titanic with tweezers. It's an exercise in futility.

The film moves at an incredibly plodding pace, and the script is so bad it makes Miller look good. He gets the best lines just because he was

probably allowed to ad-lib with his own comedic style.

Director Peter Hall really bit it on this one, trying to make a thriller out of this movie-of-the-week crap. Better luck next time.

The real tragedy here is Banderas, whose star was on the rise with "Assassins" and "Desperado" and now stands a chance at falling.

If, for whatever reason, you decide to go to this movie, be prepared for the many steamy sex scenes between DeMornay and Banderas, which lead to many, many scenes with both stars in the buffski.

"Never Talk To Strangers" should be retitled.

The Facts

Movie: "Never Talk To Strangers"

Stars: Rebecca DeMornay, Antonio Banderas

Director: Peter Hall

Rating: R (violence, sexual situations, nudity, language)

Grade: D-

Five Words: Stellar stars can't save schlock

"Never See This Movie."

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