

Music School

Performance to highlight German lied

By **EMILY WRAY**
Staff Reporter

Leading performers of the lied will present a concert Thursday night at Kimball Recital Hall featuring German contributions to classical music.

The lied, a German art song developed between 1800 and 1920, contains short lyrical poems of vivid imagery well-adapted to music, said Margaret Kennedy-Dygas, associate professor of voice at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"It is one of the major contributions of German musical culture to Western art music," Kennedy-Dygas said.

The 8 p.m. performance features two gifted singers specializing in art song who teach and perform in the region, Kennedy-Dygas said.

Stephen Town, professor of music at Northwest Missouri State University, sings baritone. Richard Bobo, professor of piano and music literature at Northwest Missouri State University, accompanies Town on the piano.

Town's program, *Romanzen aus Tiecks Magelone, Op. 33*, by Johannes Brahms, features poetry based on a famous folk tale, Kennedy-Dygas said.

"The story line is not presented in the songs, it's in the program notes," she said. "The songs are inserts of characters speaking in the story."

Soprano Wendy Zaro-Fisher sings the second half of the program. Zaro-Fisher, an assistant professor of voice at the University of Kansas, is accompanied by pianist Cory Hall.

Zaro-Fisher will perform part of composer Paul Hindemith's piece *Das Marienleben (Selections), Version II*.

Zaro-Fisher's program includes contemporary reflective fantasy poems based on the life of Mary, the biblical mother of Jesus, Kennedy-Dygas said.

"It's neo-classical, tuneful, but with more dissonance," Kennedy-Dygas said. "The poetry and music as well is more personal and abstract at times."

Thursday's free performance will appeal to students interested in German culture, Kennedy-Dygas said.

"The images in the text are reflected in the music to a sophisticated degree," she said. "It should be a real good performance."

East Meets West

The Tibetan Monks of the Sera Je Monastery

Monks will entertain, send message

By **BRET SCHULTE**
Staff Reporter



Feeling a lack of spiritual fulfillment in your life? Has it been awhile since you've attained a plane of elevated consciousness? If the answer is yes to either of these questions, help is on the way.

The Tibetan monks of the Sera Je Mon-

astery will be visiting Nebraska Union's Centennial Room tonight. The monks plan on providing a multimedia event complete with a variety of dance, music and projected images of their homeland onto a large screen.

Excerpts of the film "Compassion in Exile," a biography about the plight of the current Dalai Lama's forced emigration from Tibet and his triumphs of nonviolent opposition.

The odd combination of Buddhism and advanced technology may seem a bit paradoxical, but this format has been quite successful in allowing the monks to convey both a message and entertainment simultaneously.

Kent Porter, coordinator of the Lincoln chapter of Jewel Heart, an international organization dedicated to the study of Tibetan culture, said the purpose of the tour is two-fold.

"First, (we want) to raise an awareness of (Tibetan) history," he said.

"Second, (we want) to raise funds for their monastery."

The monks have been forced to take their cause on the road because of increasing financial pressure from constant flow of refugees who seek shelter in their monastery.

Porter said although the monks are Tibetan, they were forced to move the monastery from Tibet to India because of increasing anti-religious movements on behalf of the Chinese government, which has occupied Tibet since 1959.

The Chinese government issued the death penalty for any citizen carrying a picture of the Dalai Lama.

This persecution sent the Tibetan monks to the U.S. in search of support. Three monks will be returning to UNL in November for a week.

The Monks plan on constructing a sand mandala, an elaborate circular sand painting, on the second floor of Morrill Hall.

Tonight's presentation begins at 7:30 at Nebraska Union. Tickets are \$8 at the door and \$5 for students.

Theater artist speaks of multicultural issues

By **ANN STACK**
Senior Reporter

Almost every kid has the fantasy of running away and joining the circus, but most don't act on it.

Except Jeff Raz.

Raz, a traveling theater artist, is visiting the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this week as part of the College of Fine and Performing Arts Artists Diversity Residency Program. The program brings artists with diverse backgrounds to the UNL campus to address multicultural issues.

The 39-year-old San Franciscan didn't have to run away to join the circus, but he has performed extensively as a clown and an acrobat.

He got his start performing when he was 14, when he learned how to juggle at a Renaissance fair in San Francisco.

"I was running a games booth, and we got excruciatingly bored," he said. "Someone taught me how to juggle with croquet balls. And at 14, when you find something that people will actually watch you do, it's thrilling."

He continued to perform street theater through high school. In 1978, Raz turned professional when he got a job with the city's top juggling group, performing up to five shows a day.

Frustrated with the street performance scene and feeling that it lacked depth, Raz attended the Dell'Arte School of Physical Comedy.

"I thought I'd be an actor but found there was no money and no depth in that either," he said.

For seven years after that, he toured with the trio Vaudeville Nouveau, performing original plays.

Then he got the break of a lifetime when he became the lead character and ringmaster of the Pickle Family Circus. He retired from the circus in March 1996, after more than five years of clowning and acrobatics.

"I learned acrobatics as a teen-ager to go along with juggling," he said. "A clown needs to know everything about a circus and go from there."

Raz even trained clowns for The Ringling Bros. at the Ringling Clown College in Florida.

"The American circus is based on the Ringling Bros. model — and



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

JEFF RAZ demonstrates one of his many talents, juggling, on the balcony of his apartment.

clowns are at the bottom of the heap," Raz said. "That's not how it should be, and they're finally starting to get away from that."

He said circuses are also getting away from the triteness that's always followed them, becoming more enlivened with the theater and the aesthet-

Prosecutor angered by 'Doonesbury' comic strip

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California's top prosecutor lashed out at the comic strip "Doonesbury" on Tuesday for poking fun at his raid on a club that sold marijuana to medical patients and the elderly.

Attorney General Dan Lungren said such ridicule encourages a "wink-and-nod" attitude toward drugs that is responsible for destroying children's lives.

Lungren asked the Universal Press Syndicate, which distributes the popular satirical comic strip, to either withdraw this week's series or run "a disclaimer side-by-side with the strips which states the known facts related to the Cannabis Buyers' Club."

Calls to Doonesbury cartoonist Garry Trudeau were referred to Lee Salem, Universal's editorial director, who said the syndicate would do neither.

"A disclaimer really violates the premise of the strip," said Salem, adding that it is up to individual newspapers to provide any additional context they believe their readers need.

"I don't think it's the intent of any comic strip to provide a full discussion of all the facts in a political discussion," Salem said.

In August, agents from Lungren's Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement raided the San Francisco club, which had sold marijuana to AIDS and cancer patients for use as a pain reliever. The club had the tacit approval of city officials and local police, operating openly for five years without interference.

Lungren said at the time that in addition to providing marijuana illegally to ill patients, the club was a major source for dealers who peddled drugs on the street.

Tomorrow
A review of
NIRVANA'S
"From the Muddy Banks of the Wishkah"