

Nebraska native to promote book, speak about hard life

By ANN STACK
Senior Reporter

A Nebraska native who has led quite a life has decided it's time to tell her story.

Barnes and Noble Booksellers is bringing Lisa Dale Norton to town tonight for a special talk and book signing.

She's promoting her first book, "Hawk Flies Above: Journey to the Heart of the Sandhills." The book is about her childhood home of Lake Ericson in the Sandhills of western Nebraska.

The title came from a hike she took in Colorado.

"I was up in the mountains by myself, just stomping along, when something told me, 'look up now,'" she said. "I looked up, and this hawk was coming right at my head."

She said the hawk was a talisman of her upcoming project.

"For me, it was a way of saying I'd be safe on my journey of telling my story," she said. "The story I had to tell was hard, and I needed protection."

Her story is contained in the pages of her novel, which was written in three parts. The first part is about her childhood, about the innocence and beauty of the lake and her youth.

Norton is originally from Osceola, but spent summers at her family's cabin. Her mother left the

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LISA DALE NORTON
author

family when Norton was 12, and that was the event that shattered her childhood memories. That's where the first part ends.

The second part begins after her assault in 1980, where she was brutally raped and beaten.

"It's not just that I was raped, I was almost murdered," she said. "When you come close to death, you take a look at your life."

The third part of the book is a reflection of her changing homeland, a land ravaged by overuse — lakes polluted, soil depleted, water wasted.

Besides being a writer, Norton has also worked as a journalist and a college professor. She currently teaches writing at the Neahkanie Institute in Mansanita, Ore.

She will be at Barnes and Noble tonight at 8 to read from her book and answer questions. Autographs are free.

Music contrasts in Kimball recitals

By EMILY WRAY
Staff Reporter

They're both considered 20th century art forms.

One draws from an organized chaos known as improvisation in the form of swing. The other associates itself with marches, suites, rhythm and organization. When different types of music are mixed, it's usually called noise.

But not this time.

Two School of Music ensembles celebrating contrasting types of music play at Kimball Recital Hall this weekend.

The first group, the UNL Jazz Ensemble, will perform a free concert Friday at 8 p.m.

The group of 17 jazz musicians brings a big band feel to the stage, said director Rusty White, associate professor of double bass and jazz performance.

The ensemble's program spans the history and artistic diversity of the big band's repertoire. The pieces range from *Concerto for Cootie*, written and performed by Duke Ellington in the 1930s, to *Road Time Shuffle*, written in the 1970s by Toshiko Akioyoshi.

"Tunes span from a black male to a Japanese-American female and everything in between, including an arrangement called the *4222 Blues* by Peter Bouffard, instructor in the School of Music," White said.

Road Time Shuffle challenges students technically, he said.

"The lines she writes are challenging for any musical medium," White said. "It's awkward for the instruments, not idiomatic for particular instruments. It's like rapid sixteenth notes for the tuba instead of the piccolo."

"We thought it appropriate to focus on the musical and career success of educators, particularly our graduates."

RUSTY WHITE
band director

"Played well by a good band, it sounds good, it's just a little harder."

Two Jazz Ensemble alumni play with the group as guest artists. Trumpeter Bob Krueger contributes to *Concerto for Cootie*, while Scott Vicroy plays saxophone on *Road Time Shuffle*.

"They're among the best local jazz musicians," White said. "We thought it appropriate to focus on the musical and career success of educators, particularly our graduates."

"Bob and Scott teach the children of Lincoln while maintaining active performing careers," he said. "They're part of the musical and educational culture of Lincoln."

White encourages students to get a seat early because attendance is usually high.

The Concert Band will also perform a free concert this weekend at Kimball Recital Hall.

Sunday's 3 p.m. concert covers a wide variety of styles that will be fun for the average listener, said Rod Chesnutt, assistant director of bands and director of the Cornhusker marching band.

The traditional march, *National Emblem* by E.E. Bagley, balances the nontraditional piece, *Apollo* by John Pennington.

Aleatoric music, which is the category of music *Apollo* falls under, builds on the premise that every performance of a work is a new creation, Chesnutt said. The performers are allowed to create within a particular set of guidelines.

"It's full of nontraditional sound envelopes, like instruments making a percussive sound," he said.

Graduate student Karin Beckstrand conducts *Apollo*. Along with other young composers, Pennington received a grant in the 1960s to introduce students to 20th century compositional techniques in public schools. *Apollo* is one of the large number of works written in that setting, Chesnutt said.

Jack Stamp's *Antithigram* and *Savannah River Holiday* by Ron Nelson feature contemporary harmonies and brilliant fanfares that are balanced with a subtle woodwind section, Chesnutt said.

"They reflect the power and brilliance that's capable in such an ensemble," he said. "All the pieces have certain challenges to them. The very things that make pieces work and interesting are the same things that make it challenging."

Students will enjoy the concert and be back for more, Chesnutt said.

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