

Floating Opera combines bands, professor, poet for success

By **CLIFF HICKS**
Staff Reporter

Take two local bands, a poet and a composer who doubles as a teacher and you end up with Floating Opera.

Everything began with Charles Lieurance's poetry, said Richard Rebarber, composer for Floating Opera. Rebarber is also an associate professor of mathematics and statistics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Lieurance, who is a member of Rise Up Beggar, shared his poetry with Rebarber, who thought he could put it to music.

The problem was that neither Lieurance nor Rebarber wanted to do many things on the album, like sing or play guitar.

"When I bring someone in," Rebarber said, "most of them are better at coming up with their own parts than my idea."

"At its essence, Floating Opera always starts with me and Charles," Rebarber said. "Everyone else just sort of comes into the picture later."

The kind of talent Rebarber brings in is of no slouch quality, either. Floating Opera's new release "Everybody's Somebody's Monster" features members of The Millions and Mercy Rule.

"It started with Lori Allison [former singer of The Millions]," Rebarber said. "She added credibility,

along with a lot of talent."

With Allison singing, they had enough material recorded to release a cassette, entitled "Floating Opera Musicians," in 1993.

"It got some very nice reviews and I got to know more people," Rebarber said. "Then we started to work on another set of songs."

From Allison, Rebarber met the rest of The Millions and from them, Mercy Rule. This, Rebarber said, gave him a lot more people to work with.

"When I bring in good people, it usually turns out better than I originally heard in my head," Rebarber said.

Rebarber writes most of the music on piano and also plays keyboards. He then works with all the musicians he brings in to fill in the gaps.

Besides composing most of the music, Rebarber also engineers and records all of the material himself in his bedroom.

"I don't have wonderful engineering skills," Rebarber said, "but I get by."

Many of the songs on "Everybody's Somebody's Monster" are violent, Rebarber said, such as "Magician's Daughter," which tells about a magician doing unspeakable things to his daughter who doubles as his assistant.

The cover, done by Harry Dingman III who also played guitar on the record, is an extremely detailed por-

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RICHARD REBARBER
composer

trait of two people.

"We wanted sort of a '50s hiker thing — like an Alfred Hitchcock movie," Rebarber said. "We wanted a picture that wasn't obvious and it isn't clear whether the man or the woman is the monster. I think they both are."

"Everybody's Somebody's Monster" was released a few weeks ago, and Rebarber and Lieurance are already at work on their next production.

"The next one will not take three or four years," Rebarber said. "It's about relationships gone wrong so far — it sounds trite, but it's trickier than that."

Floating Opera
"Everybody's Somebody's Monster"
-Ismlst Recordings
Grade: A-

Albums like "Everybody's Somebody's Monster" are a gulp of fresh water in the seas of salty offerings abounding in the music scene right now.

Many things set Floating Opera apart from the staples available on the radio. The first of these is the voices.

Lori Allison (formerly of The Millions), Heidi Ore (of Mercy Rule) and Tammy VanBogart offer spectacular singing, from quiet to soaring.

The other thing that helps is the strong sound of a piano. Too many bands these days slam guitars around and call it music — well-organized music makes a nice change of pace.

While the lyrics are deep and moody, the music itself is lighter, providing a great contrast between the two. The melodies on "Everybody's" could be described as ephemeral.

The sort of pulsing beat of "So Flies Theresa" marks one of the few truly upbeat songs on the album and sounds truly playful.

— **Cliff Hicks**

CD Review

A personal favorite is a ballad cover of Bob Mould's "Make No Sense At All." The song becomes focused on the lyrics — a definite change from the original version.

"Teenage Death Song" simply is comic because it lambastes the typical suicide mentality, but keeps that haunting form that lingers through most of "Everybody's Somebody's Monster."

On occasion, the drums sound a little limp and flat, but this is excusable considering millions weren't spent on studio production.

The other tiny annoyance is the sudden ending of "Lisa's Limbs," which just stops abruptly instead of giving the listener an actual finish.

Of course, "Lisa's Limbs" along with "Dressed In Seven" and "Forever In June" are from Floating Opera's first work, so times change, perhaps.

"Everybody's Somebody's Monster" is a great piece of work from a bunch of truly talented people. Its flaws can be overlooked, and further works from these folks are eagerly anticipated.

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Saturday, Feb. 22, Cornhusker Hotel (333 South 13th), 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Registration at 8:30) \$15.00 (Meal included).

Send checks by Weds., Feb. 19, to: Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Room 209 College of Business Administration University of Nebraska-Lincoln Lincoln, NE 68588-0487

210 Announcements

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Mondays and Wednesdays at 2:30
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:30 and 3:30
Except February 24 and 25
All sessions are in CBA 138

Campus Recreation Advisory Council

Campus Recreation is looking for members for the 1997-98 Campus Recreation Advisory Council. Applications are available at 55 Campus Recreation Center and 32 College Activities Building and must be returned by February 25.

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Student Fees

The Committee for Fees Allocation will meet at 5:45 p.m. tonight in the Nebraska Union to vote on Fund B appeals. An open forum is provided for students to voice their opinion. If you have any questions, contact the Student Government office, 115 Nebraska Union, or call 472-2581.

Student Involvement Officer Transition Workshop for Student Organization
February 25, 4:30pm CBA. Reservations requested 472-2454.

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Women's Center Open House

Fri., Feb. 21
1-4 p.m.

340 Nebraska Union
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215 Meetings

ADVANCE
Party Meeting, East Campus Union, 3:00pm Sunday, Feb. 23rd.

Fencing Club
Welcoming New Members!
Orientation Thursday, Feb. 20, 8pm, Mabel Lee south gym. All interested in learning one of the oldest sports are encouraged to attend.

En Garde!
For more info, contact Michael Hoff at 472-5342.

Montessori Teacher Training Information Meeting.
Sat. Feb. 22, 1-3 p.m. at PRAIRIE HILL Learning Center 10 miles south on Highway 77. 438-8668.

Mortar Board Week 1997

Pre-Physical Club
We have a meeting Tuesday at 8pm. The room will be posted at the Union. A representative from South Dakota's Therapy Program will be there.

SAA
Welcome, New Members! Meeting Thursday, 5pm, at Wick Center. Dinner afterwards at the N-Zone. Don't miss out!

Society of Human Resource Management
Thursday, February 20, 5:30p.m., 13th & R (next to International Affairs)

STAND
Meeting TONIGHT!! 8pm, in the Union. Bring a friend, win a prize!

Student Foundation Meeting
Thurs. 5:15 p.m. at the Union, room will be posted.
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

UNL Marketing Club
Meeting is going to be a social at P.O. Peer's, at 6 p.m. TONIGHT. Bring \$1 for hamburgers and fries. You have to attend the next four meetings to be a member in good standing. The AMA Luncheon is going to be at the University Club at 12:00pm, bring \$8.

UNL Biochemistry Club
Meeting rescheduled for Thursday, Feb. 20, at 7pm in Beadle, N-172. Discussion & food!

220 Greek Affairs

ΑΔΠ
Congratulations to Elizabeth Krause, Michelle Young, and Michelle Decker on their peerings to each of their Brian's!
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ΑΓΡ
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Butch, Meter, Dirty D, Hanna, and Meyer: Thanks for playing water volleyball with us.
p.s. The speedos were appealing.
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It's coming.....

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230 Student Government

Represent your college!

Senate position open to represent the Nursing College and the Graduate College. Applications available at ASUN Office, 115 Nebr. Union, deadline Feb. 27.

245 Lost & Found

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FOUND: 277, sunglasses, Oldfather, 2nd floor, men's room, Contact the Daily Nebraskan.

FOUND: Keys found in Lyman Hall, 2/18. Claim at Daily Nebraskan

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