

Lied Center's '98 picks aim for audience appeal

By ANN STACK
Senior Reporter

You'll laugh, you'll cry; it may even be better than "Cats." The Lied Center for Performing Arts has announced its 1997-98 season, and its new director, Charles Bethea, thinks there's something for everyone on the bill.

Bethea, who came to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln midway through the process of planning the new season, said he and interim director Larry Lusk worked to find acts that would appeal to a diverse audience.

"We agreed that since I'm coming into a new place it was important to keep a broad spectrum to be as accessible to a broad audience base," he said. "We wanted to meet the usual mandates of the program — music and dance with an emphasis on family programming. We wanted a few things that would be recognizable while still maintaining artistic content."

Some of those recognizable things include performances of the Broadway musical "Les Miserables," "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "Smokey Joe's Cafe," Peter, Paul and Mary and the Canadian Brass.

"Les Miserables," Victor Hugo's classic tale of revolution and redemption, will probably be one of the Lied's more popular shows next season, Bethea said. Eight performances of the musical will be given Sept. 23-28.

Tickets for "Les Miserables" and the Lied's first performer, Grammy-award winner and violinist Itzhak Perlman will be sold singularly. From the time the 1997-98 season brochure is mailed to subscribers until July 14, tickets will be sold by mail orders.

After July 14, they can be purchased by phone or at the Lied Center box office, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tickets for all other events will be sold beginning Aug. 25.

New to the Lied's program is the family series. Three performances are being targeted to families, Bethea said. The three events selected are: The Magic School Bus—Live! with "Arnold's Favorite Field Trip," Theatre Sans Fil, a giant puppet troupe, and Cirque Eloize, an acrobatic trio.

"They're all highly artistic and priced in such a way that families can afford," he said.

And, with the Lied Center's new director still getting adjusted to Lincoln, the season should be as exciting for Bethea as it is for audiences.

"I wanted to get acquainted with the community; it's kind of my welcoming season," he said. "It's a good basis for building the future on. Good art should be entertaining, and the best entertainment should be good art."

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CHARLES BETHEA
Lied Center director



AARON STECKELBERG/DN
"JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT," a musical-comedy that looks at biblical history through the eyes of 20th-century pop culture, will close out the Lied Center's 1997-98 season.

Coming Attractions

The 1997-98 season for the Lied Center for the Performing Arts is scheduled as follows.

Itzhak Perlman and the Omaha Symphony	Sept. 14
"Les Miserables"	Sept. 23-28
The James Sewell Ballet	Oct. 2
The Magic School Bus - Live!	Oct. 10-11
"Carmen"	Oct. 15
Peter, Paul and Mary	Oct. 17
CELLO	Oct. 21-22
Marilyn Horne	Nov. 2
Duetsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin	Nov. 9
Mingus Big Band	Nov. 18
The Canadian Brass	Dec. 5-6
"Oklahoma!"	Dec. 11-14
Garrick Ohlsson	Jan. 20
Theatre Sans Fil	Jan. 23-24
Evelyn Glennie	Jan. 29
Tito Puente Latin Jazz Ensemble	Jan. 31
Oakland Ballet	Feb. 5
The Black Watch	Feb. 7
Poetry in Motion	Feb. 10
"Smokey Joe's Cafe"	Feb. 13
Hubbard Street Dance Chicago	Feb. 20
Sergio and Odair Assad	March 3
Todd Palmer	March 13
Van Cliburn International Piano Competition Winner	March 19
Australian Chamber Orchestra	March 27
The Acting Company Presents "Romeo and Juliet" and "Fresh Numbers"	April 2-3
Street Sounds	April 17-18
Hal Holbrook, "Mark Twain Tonight"	April 21
"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"	May 1-3