

# Music professor to give farewell performance

By JASON HARDY  
Senior Reporter

After 23 years of teaching at UNL, Robert Emile is going out the same way he came in — with music.

Thursday at 8 p.m., faculty members, alumni and students will gather at Kimball Recital Hall to offer Emile, a professor in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Music, a bon voyage. Emile, along with partner Nicole Narboni, assistant professor in the School of Music, will perform Bach's "Bedussy Brahms" as part of the event.

The free performance will be followed by another performance of a song written for the occasion by Randall Snyder, composer-in-residence for the School of Music. After that there will be a reception in the lower level of Kimball Recital Hall.

Emile will play the violin, and Narboni will play the piano. Emile said he is happy to start his retirement with a performance of the music he loves.

"I've played a recital just about every year, but I enjoy playing," Emile said. "I've played all my life."

Narboni said she is excited to be a part of the recital.

"I'm looking forward to it," Narboni said. "I love all the music that we're doing."

Emile said he appreciated what he had accomplished through playing and teaching music. That type of appreciation is what he tried to instill in his stu-

dents during the past 23 years.

"Music is a normal part of life," Emile said. "Everyone is involved with music, whether they know it or not."

He said he tried to teach his students to be selective in the music they paid attention to. That means not worrying about the push of advertising agencies, he said.

"Listening to something — that means more than just buying a can of tomatoes," Emile said. He said another important aspect of teaching was being sincere when dealing with students.

"I just try to be honest with them and let them know where I'm coming from — telling them like it is and supporting them," Emile said.

He said being honest was sometimes hard because some students had too high of expectations.

"They think that since they love music they should be in it for a business," Emile said. "I love to play tennis, but I won't ever be pro."

Narboni said Emile is an excellent musician and that students could learn a lot from his approach to playing music.

"His standards are very high, and that's something that everybody can learn from," Narboni said.

With maintaining high standards, Emile said, one has to be careful to not get caught up in them.

"It shouldn't be obsessive, but it's easy to get that way," Emile said. "At the end of the day you have to enjoy it."

"At least you have to have satisfaction that you did your best."

# UPC offers 'living' before Dead Week

From Staff Reports

It's the last big party before the stress of finals begins, and it's open to everyone.

The University Program Council is sponsoring "Living Before Dead Week," a day of activities from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday designed to provide students with stress relief.

Summer Stivey, a UPC representative, said the day will include fun events and free prizes for everyone.

"We are really pumped and excited about this event," Stivey said. "There is some really good stuff

going on."

Stivey said the day will include games of Pepsi ball and Twister, among other things.

"We are going to have a special game of Singled Out with Sara Russell and Viet Hoang," she said.

The event also features two bands, Full Clip and Indigenous.

"Full Clip is a rap group from Omaha, and our main headliner is the blues band Indigenous," she said.

Stivey said UPC is expecting a good turnout for the event and encouraged everyone to attend.

"Last year we had over 1,000 people attend, and we are hoping this

year is even better," she said. "It's going to be a fun and free event, and every college student likes those things."

The schedule of events for Thursday is as follows:

■ 11 a.m. — Lunch on the Green, Twister and Pepsi ball

■ 1 p.m. — Ready, Set, Volleyball playoffs

■ 3 p.m. — Full Clip

■ 4 p.m. — Singled Out

■ 5 p.m. — Indigenous

The day's events all take place in the east loop by Memorial Stadium. For more information, call UPC at (402) 472-8146.

## Music

Stabbing Westward  
"Darkest Days"  
Columbia  
Grade: B+

Despite the title, this is Stabbing Westward's most uplifting album yet.

That doesn't mean the band has forsaken depressing subjects like self-hate, relationship problems and suicidal-wish fulfillment just yet. But it does mean there are a few songs that actually feature happier subjects, such as "You Complete Me," where a relationship actually works, and "Save Yourself,"



which is about being realistic in a relationship.

"Save Yourself" is currently receiving a lot of airplay in Lincoln, mainly for

its infectious beat and pop-type melody. It is definitely a crowd-pleaser, with definite rhythmic and melodic hooks that listeners can easily sink their teeth into.

However, it is not the best song on this album.

"Drowning" holds that distinction, combining a synthesizer, an electric piano and very quiet lyrical singing from Stabbing Westward's lead singer Christopher Hall on a subject this group seems to know a lot about — absolute despair. As Hall sings on this cut, "I'm drowning in nothing. I'm losing myself, sinking deeper down. Everything has changed but me."

The lyrics alone don't make this cut memorable, but combined with the music, it is extremely powerful and moving.

"You Complete Me," the happiest song on this release by far, also is excellent. In this song, Hall sings about love in a positive sense, something which would have been unheard of on either "Ungod" or "Wither Blister Burn and Peel."

Worthiness of love, or the lack of it, is a huge departure for Stabbing Westward's lyrical writing.

Other songs perhaps more typical of Stabbing Westward's musical output are "Desperate Now," "Everything I Touch," "The Thing I Hate (P.O.M.F.)," "On Your Way Down" and "Goodbye." They are all dark, depressing and despondent songs about despair, agony, pain and problems.

"Desperate Now" is another slow, lyrical take on depression without being as good as "Drowning," and "Everything I Touch" is its up-tempo counterpart. "On Your Way Down" has an infectious melodic hook, despite its



COURTESY PHOTO  
THE MEMBERS OF STABBING WESTWARD are (from left) Walter Flakus, Christopher Hall, Jim Sellers, Andy Kubiszewski and Mark Eliopoulos. "Darkest Days" is the group's third full-length release.

subject matter — the downfall of success. This is a fine album which will delight Stabbing Westward fans everywhere, but it may not convert anyone. It seems that Stabbing Westward needs to be a little bit more lyrically diverse (i.e., not talk about death, depression, suicide, etc. so much) in order to progress and grow as a musical group.

However, there is quite a bit of musical progress from vocalist Hall, guitarist Marcus Eliopoulos, keyboard player Walter Flakus, multi-instrumentalist Andrew Kubiszewski and bassist Jim Sellers; and that bodes well for the future.

Keep an eye on this group. They may just surprise you.

— Barb Churchill

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