

UPC provides summer entertainment options

By JIM ZAVODNY
Staff Reporter

The same people who brought rap veterans Run DMC, MTV's Loveline and David Silverman, the animation director for the Simpsons, to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln last year are at it again.

The University Program Council's summer events calendar may not be packed with big names, but the UPC continues to provide the community with free entertainment opportunities just as they did in the fall and spring semesters.

The Treasurer of UPC, Jennifer Robinson, said one of the reasons they don't bring in the more popular acts during the summer is because most students have gone home until fall.

"Mainly the only things we do in the summer are Jazz in June, Grassy Grooves, the Royals baseball games and the Movies on the Green because a lot of the event directors aren't here, and we have a smaller budget during the summer," Robinson said.

Tricia Besett, advisor for the UPC during the summer, said UPC members hope students, faculty and anyone else interested will attend the four summer events.

"The UPC tries hard to plan events when students will be available, so that they can take advantage of them," she said.

The most popular event so far has been Jazz In June, which the UPC helps co-sponsor with the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery.

Jazz in June, held each Tuesday night in June on the greenspace between the Sheldon and Architecture Hall, begins at 7 p.m.

and features performances by different jazz artists or groups.

Another event the UPC sponsors during the summer is Grassy Grooves, an outdoor concert series held every Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. between the Nebraska Union and the Administration Building. With 10 performances left, Besett encouraged people to attend the shows and buy a hot dog and pop for \$1.

"Grassy Grooves is nice because it's held during the lunch hour, which is a good time for people because they have a break during this time to come and watch these events," Besett said.

On June 26 and July 17, UPC will sponsor a trip to Omaha to watch the Omaha Royals minor league baseball team play at Rosenblatt Stadium. UPC has enough room for 30 people to attend, and tickets for the games must be purchased one week in advance at a cost of \$5 for UNL students and \$8 for non-students. University vehicles will leave from the Nebraska Union at 5:30 p.m. on the nights of the games, Besett said.

"The Royals games are a great deal because the tickets are normally \$4, and for another dollar you get transportation and food," Besett said.

The last event on the UPC's summer events calendar is Movies on the Green. Shown on a big screen TV on the greenspace north of Kimball Hall, Movies on the Green will start around 9 p.m. Movies for the summer are on June 17, "Back to the Future," July 8, "Terms of Endearment," July 22, "Raiders of the Lost Ark," August 5, "Dirty Dancing" and August 20, "Goonies." Along with the movie anyone who attends will receive free pop and popcorn, Robinson said.

"(The movies) are basically a leisurely thing to do, to kind of help students with summer classes wind down their days."

If you're interested in joining the UPC or want more information about their summer events, call 472-2454.

Jazz in June seventh year promising

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The Nebraska Art Association. Although she is not able to attend often, she said, "I attend when I can, and I certainly am a wholehearted supporter of the program."

During the first few years of Jazz in June, local jazz bands were often used, Piper said. However, as the budget for the concert series has grown, more regional and national acts have been booked. This year marks Jazz in June's first international act, Belgian pianist Ivan Paduart.

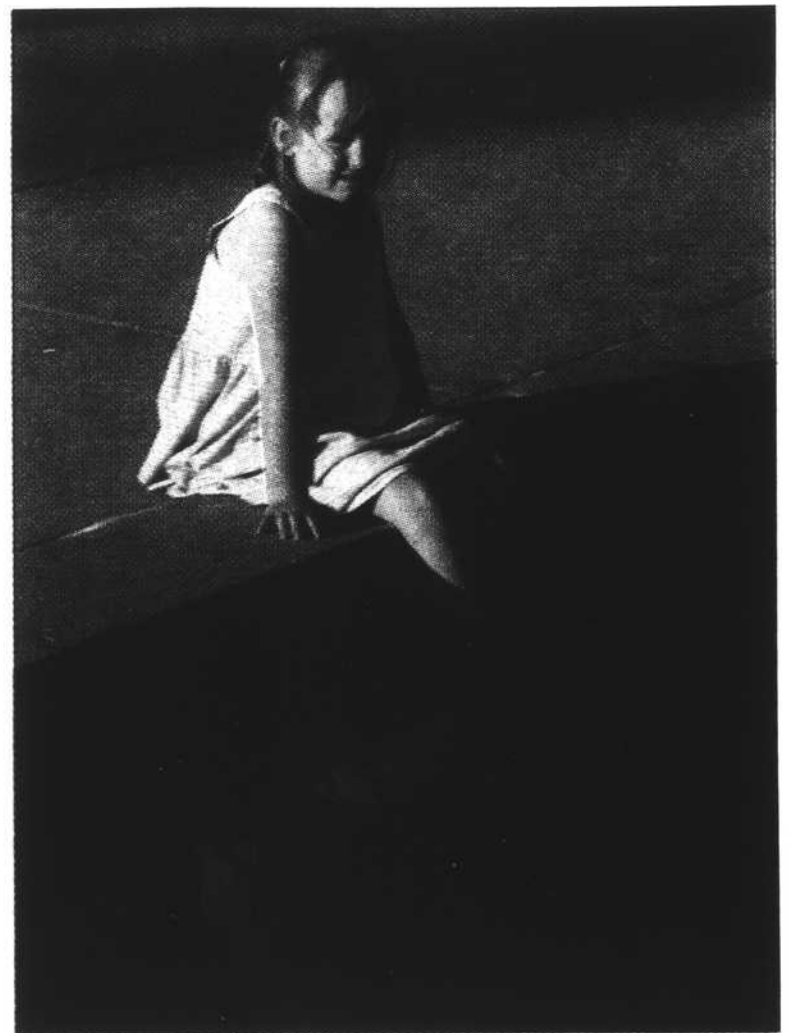
"The Belgian government is sponsoring (Paduart) to come to the United States for two jazz concerts, one in Kansas City and one here. This is new and exciting, for both us and him, as he's never been in the U.S. before," Piper said.

This year's concert series debuted on June 2 with the Jamaican-inspired calypso jazz group IRIE with the Gulizia Brothers. Forthcoming concerts include straight-ahead vocalist/saxophonist Kevin Mahogany, June 9; the latin-influenced group Musa Nova with Angela Hagenbach, June 16; the jazz/rock of the Bruce Katz Band, June 23; and Belgian pianist Paduart (and friends), June 30.

Artists were chosen by a committee composed of Dave Sharp, jazz instructor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Herb Thomas, radio personality at KZUM, Tom Ineck, local jazz writer, Larry Boehmer from the Zoo Bar and three people from the "Sheldon at Six" committee, Piper said.

This year's series has five concerts, as opposed to the usual four. And this wasn't easy to do, Piper said, as it's exhausting to get enough corporations to underwrite the expenses for Jazz in June.

But it's well worth it, she said.



DAWN DIETRICH/DN

KATHRYN PIPER, 5, soaks her feet in the fountains outside of Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery on Tuesday June 2nd. The Piper's attend Jazz in June yearly and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere.

"(Jazz in June) is just such a sense of community. It's just such a wonderful thing. It would be different if we charged for it," Piper said.

Jazz in June concerts are held every Tuesday evening in June from 7 to 9 in the sculpture garden of the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, located on the UNL campus at the intersection of 11th and R streets. Admission is free.

Additionally, the Zoo Bar will host an "after Jazz in June" jazz concert immediately following each event. Lincoln jazz vocalist Annette Murrell will perform June 9, 16 and 30 at the Zoo, with Jimmy Valentine performing on June 23.

“ I think that Jazz in June is a wonderful program.”

NANCY DAWSON
Community programming coordinator for the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery

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