

# Ensemble shares a common musical vibe

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back to New York alone. Bailey was scheduled to fly home on a tiny six-passenger plane. The thought of the turbulent ride in the tiny aircraft scared the hell out of him, so he decided to accompany Perlman on her drive home.

They got along well. Perlman called Nikkanen about Bailey when she got home because they had been looking for a cello player.

"Who in the heck is that?" was Nikkanen's response. "Who's ever heard of the name Zuill?"

Despite Nikkanen's early doubt, he was able to get together with Bailey, and the two got along well.

"Musicians always say they're going to get together and write, but they never do," Nikkanen said.

But the trio did get together and found that its music worked.

"We not only liked one another as people, but the music was there," Perlman said.

Bailey said a musician could have extraordinary talent and a good relationship with the other musicians but still not fit into a group.

"You have to have the same

vibe," he said.

Bailey found music to be his first love at age 4 and took cello lessons from Loran Stephenson of the national Symphony Orchestra. He later graduated from the Julliard School master's degree program. Bailey now does recitals throughout the country and recently finished a tour promoting peace in the Middle East.

Nikkanen also made his musical debut at a young age. When he was 12, he performed at Carnegie Hall with the New York Symphony. He also played with the New York Philharmonic and graduated from Julliard in 1986.

Perlman has been playing the piano since she was 6 and also attended Julliard. She studied art history at Brown University and made many concert appearances.

While at Brown, Perlman was faced with a situation that threatened her future as a pianist. She developed chronic rheumatoid arthritis, which forced her to quit playing for five years.

During this time, she said she came to many conclusions in her life.

"I knew I may not ever be 100 percent again, but I knew I wouldn't

## Concert Preview The Facts

**Who:** Perlman-Nikkanen-Bailey  
**Where:** Johnny Carson Theater on Tuesday, Lied Center for Performing Arts on Friday.  
**When:** 8 p.m. Tuesday and Friday  
**Cost:** \$24, half-price for students  
**The Skinny:** Trio presents impassioned music.

be happy if I didn't try to get back," she said.

She did regain her strength and learned from her experience that she was meant to play the piano.

"You can't know how much you love something until it is taken away," she said.

Being able to perform and make a living playing music is a dream come true for all three musicians.

Bailey compared playing his cello to walking.

He learned to do it so long ago that he forgets learning how. It just comes naturally.

He is amazed by the fact that he actually makes a living playing his instrument.

"I have to pinch myself every day," he said. "I've been dreaming about this since I was 10."

"*Their job is their job. This is my job and hobby. Even if I were a doctor or lawyer, I would still go home and practice.*"

NAVAH PERLMAN  
pianist

Nikkanen said he always dreamed of one day playing professionally, but the fact that he was really doing it didn't sink in until a few years after college.

"You do it and find a way to get by," he said. "But it doesn't get real until you actually realize you are making a living doing it."

Perlman shared their sentiments by comparing her attitude toward her occupation to the attitudes of friends.

"Their job is their job. This is my job and hobby," she said. "Even if I were a doctor or lawyer, I would still go home and practice."

Musicians such as Perlman, Nikkanen and Bailey don't just wake up one morning and decide they want to be professional artists.

"Artists are people who have

known what they wanted to do their entire lives," Perlman said.

The three take time out of their individual performance schedules to get together and perform two to four weeks out of the year.

The Lied Center is a scheduled stop for the group this year. Tonight, the trio will perform chamber pieces by Beethoven and Schubert in the Johnny Carson Theater. Friday night, it will accompany the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra, performing Beethoven's Concerto in C Major. Both performances are at 8 p.m.

Attending their performance is a promise to hear experienced musicians who play with a passion — the three musicians clearly share a life-long love for music.

## Teen flick torture for the uninterested

■ High school dances, preppy girls, star jocks and nerdy neighbors make up "Drive Me Crazy."

BY SAMUEL MCKEWN  
Senior staff writer

"Drive Me Crazy" borrows its title from Britney Spears' song, so, really, how good could it be?

The answer: It's not as good as the rest of the teen movie fare that's come out this year.

"Drive Me Crazy" feels like the millionth movie that ended with a big dance as its conclusion in 1999, but really it's only about the eighth.

Still, that's not a good thing. About the only truly redeeming factor to this movie is its length (95 minutes), which prevents the torture from lasting any longer than it really has to.

Torture, at least the kind of high school social torture that seems to dominate the lives of teen-age girls, is the main subject of "Drive Me Crazy."

It stars Melissa Joan Hart (she plays that witch on TGIF ABC, OK?) as Nicole Maris, a preppy, peppy, proper gal who only put together the biggest dance her high school's ever seen. Now, she only needs a date, and the star jock she wants isn't taking the bait.

So, to make him jealous, (because apparently, he's capable of such feeling) she starts to date her next-door neighbor, Chase Hammond (Adrian Grenier with a look straight out of "Welcome Back Kotter"), who just happens to be free, since his ultra-liberal girlfriend dropped him for a college activist.

Chase plays the liberal role, too, a misfit to Nicole's super-popular persona. They're supposed to hate each other, but that's never really established, only that they hang in different cliques. Either way, it isn't very significant.

Along the way, sparks fly, the two come to like each other, there's a double crossing, a misunderstanding and,

finally, the big dance. Do these two end up together? Does bacon have grease?

The story line is immaterial. It's the same as every other teen movie. The difference is in the execution and its comedic nuances. A movie such as "She's All That" scores in both those areas at least some of the time. "Drive Me Crazy" puts up a goose egg.

Consider, for example, the subplot that has one of Chase's friends drive drunk kids home as part of a safe ride program. In what world do parents, or cops, for that matter, allow this type of behavior to happen? Showing high schoolers drinking is one thing, providing them with a support system, complete with transportation, is quite another.

Parents, in fact, play quite a large role in the movie, even though they're not in the movie much at all. There are three major plot twists for these characters and not 30 lines of dialogue between them.

The list goes on and on. "Drive Me Crazy" doesn't do the necessary work to have a villain but creates one anyway, for reasons unexplained. I still thought the so-called bad girl was a decent person by the end, and I was confused as to whether her actions in the movie were intended cruelly or not.

"Drive Me Crazy" has nothing going for it. I wish it would have. Hart is pleasing enough as a lead actress, and Grenier has likable easiness about his performance.

But they play characters smart enough to belong in another movie, preferably one that didn't play the same Britney Spears song over and over.

## Film Review The Facts

**Title:** "Drive Me Crazy"  
**Director:** John Schultz  
**Rating:** PG-13 (booze use, Grenier rips off exactly one f-bomb)  
**Stars:** Melissa Joan Hart, Adrian Grenier  
**Grade:** D  
**Five Words:** Lives up to its title

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