

'Tis the festival for trees and harps

BY CASEY JOHNSON

Christmas time for many means a lot of tradition, and perhaps the most famous tradition is decorating a Christmas tree.

In accordance with that tradition, the First Plymouth Church will be the site of the second-annual "Festival of Trees," a fundraising event benefiting Abendmusik: Lincoln. Abendmusik, which means "night music" in German, is a non-profit organization that supports a concert series emphasizing choral and orchestral works.

The festival includes three events over two days, starting on Friday night with a preview of the decorated trees, wreaths, garlands and gift baskets that will be auctioned off during the festival.

Proceeds from the event will go to benefit the organization, helping the chorus travel to various places around the country and the world.

Sue Buss, executive director of Abendmusik: Lincoln, said her favorite part of the event is the trees and wreaths.

"If you can imagine walking into a room with 26 uniquely decorated trees all with different themes, it is truly spectacular," she said.

The themes of the trees will range from wine to nutcrackers. The preview will cost \$15 per person and will include holiday music, wine and snacks. On Sunday, the Abendmusik: Lincoln concert series will present "Harpending Concert." A harp quartet will play traditional religious carols and holiday favorites.

Kathy Glenn, a member of

the organizational committee for the "Festival of Trees" and a member of the Abendmusik choir, said being involved with Abendmusik has been a great addition to her life.

"I enjoy music, and I enjoy singing, and I enjoy being able to give something back to the community," she said.

Buss said she would like to see the festival continue annually, which may happen depending on this year's popularity. "We are carrying on a tradition that, hopefully, we expect to continue to kick off the holiday season for years to come," she said.

Buss said she appreciates the efforts of the people involved with the festival.

"It is wonderful - the generosity that people have shown for this festival," she said. "Everything that goes

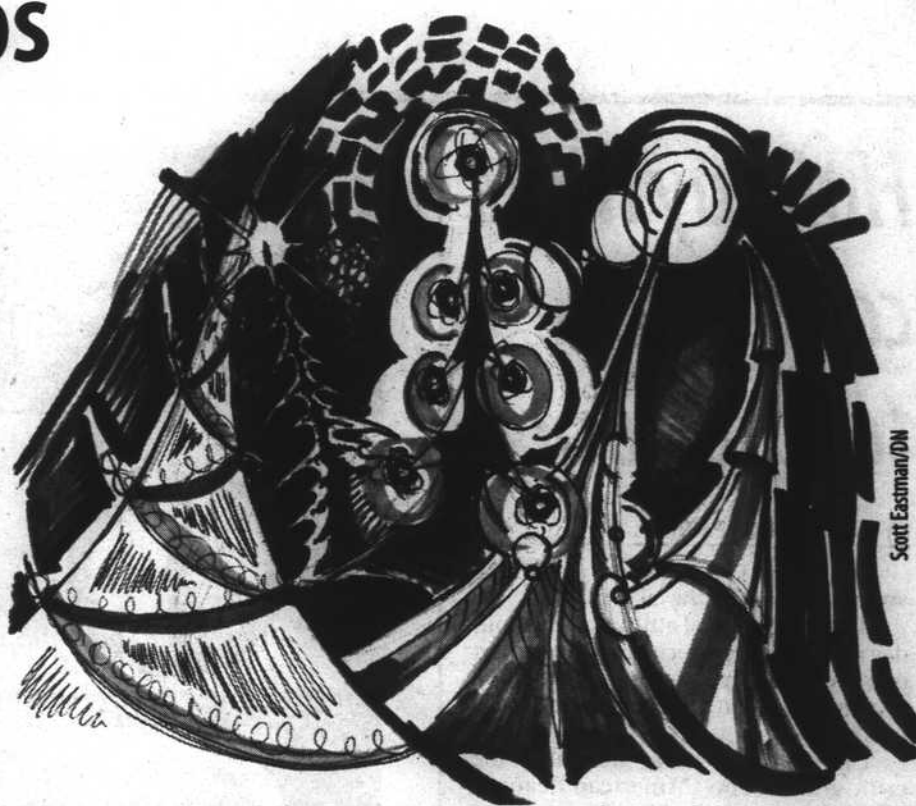
EVENT PREVIEW

Second Annual Festival of Trees & Harpening Concert

Where: First Plymouth Church, Pilgrim Hall, 2000 D St.
When: Preview of trees, Saturday @ 6 p.m. Concert, Sunday @ 7:30 p.m., doors open @ 6 p.m.
Cost: Saturday, \$15, Sunday, \$20, half-price for students

into the festival is donated. People give a lot of their time, talent and money to help us out.

"It is a good reminder of what Christmas means."



Scott Eastman/DN

Homecoming 2000

Overall Winners

Follow the Red Brick Road to Victory

<p>Sorority Division Kappa Alpha Theta</p> <p>Fraternity Division Sigma Nu</p> <p>Student Organization Innocents Society</p>	<p>Residence Hall Neihardt</p> <p>Office Display Office of Admissions</p>
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Sponsored by ASUN Homecoming Steering Committee--472-2581



Courtesy photos

LEFT: In the movie "Vertical Limit," Peter (Chris O'Donnell) and Monique (Izabella Scorupco) attempt to pull their fellow climbers to safety nearly 26,000 feet above sea level.

BELOW: Kate (Tea Leoni) and Jack Campbell (Nicholas Cage) discuss their marriage in the movie "The Family Man."

Holiday movies grasp for awards

MOVIES from page 6

Michelle Yeoh that has rewritten the genre in terms of acrobatics and sheer epic drama. Director Ang Lee (of the beautiful "The Ice Storm") returned to his roots and has crafted a film that basically drew raves everywhere it has played. ★★★★★

"Thirteen Days" (Dec. 22) - A retelling of the Cuban Missile Crisis finds Kevin Costner in his second of audience-approved roles - a government insider of sorts that is a little-known adviser to John F. Kennedy (Bruce Greenwood) named Kenny O'Donnell, who may have been a key player in defusing the crisis. After slight accuracy problems doomed "The Hurricane" last year, one assumes getting the story right is the premium. ★★★

"O Brother, Where Art Thou?" (Dec. 22) - Joel and Ethan Coen put a good year into a Depression-era epic that mirrors Homer's "Odyssey" and stars George Clooney in the title role that will likely stretch his acting dollar. John Turturro and Tim Blake Nelson co-star. This opened to lukewarm reviews at Cannes earlier this year. ★★★

"Traffic" (Dec. 22) - Steven Soderbergh might get two best director nods in one year for "Brokeback Mountain" and this effort, which stars Michael Douglas, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Dennis Quaid in a rise-and-fall epic of a drug lord. ★★★

"Cast Away" (Dec. 22) - Tom Hanks is the lone survivor of a crash in the middle of the ocean, marooned on an open island. There are no pirates and no damsel in distress - just a mostly silent Hanks, a volleyball that floats ashore, becoming his lone friend, and nature. It could work, or it could flop miserably as some sort of weirdo nature film. ★★★½

"All the Pretty Horses" (Dec.



25) - Billy Bob Thornton's third movie has been pushed back and back, all the way since June. Is that a good sign? Matt Damon stars as a cowboy drifter who runs across his Mexican dream (Penelope Cruz), whose love will cost him everything, his freedom included. ★★★

"Requiem for a Dream" (before Jan. 1) - It has already opened in most major American cities, but not in Omaha or Lincoln. It will likely get a play in the River City before the year is up. Darren "Pi" Aronofsky's follow-up has been described as such an unflinching look at heroin and pill addiction that it could play as a full-length public service announcement. ★★★★★

Other movies that are opening before Jan. 1 in major cities, but, uh, not around here - "The Gift," David Mamet's "State and Main," "The House of Mirth" and "Shadow of the Vampire."

The leisurely or action-packed fare:

"102 Dalmations" (Nov. 22) - Cruella De Ville (Glenn Close) is back. So are the dogs. ★★

"Proof of Life" (Dec. 8) - Russell Crowe attempts life after "Gladiator" as a hostage negotia-

tor in a foreign country. It is Meg Ryan's husband being held. This would be the movie that basically broke up Ryan and Dennis Quaid's marriage, as she fell into Crowe's arms. ★★

"Vertical Limit" (Dec. 8) - Chris O'Donnell went from possible matinee idol to taking on a mountain avalanche of Himalayan snow in an attempt to save his stranded climbing sister (Robin Tunney). Did I see a Scott Glenn sighting in the trailer? ★★½

"What Women Want" (Dec. 15) - Mel Gibson drops by in the comedy genre by suddenly becoming aware of all thoughts of all women. It should have been called "Look Who's Ruminating." ★★★★★

"Miss Congeniality" (Dec. 22) - Sandra Bullock goes undercover from the FBI to the beauty queen circuit to catch a crook. She's gruff to start and demure to end. And she's got a crush on Benjamin Bratt. ★★★

"The Family Man" (Dec. 22) - Nicolas Cage is in one of those "It's a Wonderful Life" deals where he gets to lead a different life with wife (Tea Leoni) and kids. Can you Capra? Can you say probably not? ★★

GALLERY PREVIEW

African Cultural Exhibition

Where: Rotunda Gallery
When: Monday, Nov. 20 & Tuesday, Nov. 21
Cost: Free

African pieces fill Rotunda

BY JILL ZEMAN

Patrons strolling through the Rotunda Gallery today and Tuesday may think they're halfway across the world.

The gallery has been transformed into a showcase of African clothing, art and cultural pieces.

Representatives from the African Students Association brought items from their home countries in Africa to make up the exhibition.

African flags hang from the ceiling, each denoting a country that is represented by students who attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Traditional clothing, sculptures and posters are displayed on the walls of the gallery, while African music and videos will be played from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Senior environmental studies major Natasha Sekitoleko said the exhibition provides a virtual tour of Africa for students.

"A lot of them will never have a chance to go to Africa," she said. "The exhibition is a good way to expose people to different cultures."

Erick Kinyungu, a junior biochemistry major, brought masks from the Giriama tribe in Kenya to display. There are several other objects on display that reflect cultures of each individual country, he said.

The traditional clothing also represents differences between African countries, he said.

For example, in more modernized countries such as Kenya, traditional clothing is rarely worn. But in West-African countries such as Ghana, it's common to see people wear the clothing that's on display in the gallery.

The objects displayed are only the tip of the iceberg, Kinyungu said.

"This may look like a lot, but it's only a small iota of what Africa is," Kinyungu said. "We want to prove we also have a culture, something we can be proud of."

Courtney Yilk, a graduate student in museum studies, said the African exhibition differs from a typical exhibit in many ways.

For example, in a museum, there's no person behind the object on display, she said.

"We're lucky because we have the voices of people to interpret the pieces," she said.

Lucien Solefack, a senior computer engineering major and president of ASA, said he's been pleased so far with contributions to the exhibition.

Solefack said he thought the exhibition gives people a broader perspective of what African culture is like. The pieces on display show off the creativity of African artists and designers, he said.

"It brings people a little closer to the human nature (of Africa)," he said.

Ami Traore, a junior agricultural economics major from Mali, said she thought students could learn a lot from the exhibition.

"These are things you don't see on TV," she said.

It burns with a rare fire and passion.

/Sound, familiar?/

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