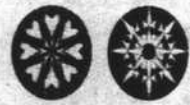




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UNL graduate David Wilson reached No.8 on the mp3.com country charts.

Courtesy of Matt Miller

Web site boasts new talents

DOWNLOAD from page 5

Another service that mp3.com offers is its music licensing program, which allows artists to upload their music into a database that is accessible to those with interest in finding songs for commercial use. Wilson also said that the ability to collaborate and make music with someone halfway around the world is enhanced with sites like mp3.com.

"It's amazing how easy it is. It's almost scary," Wilson said.

Wilson said that with mp3 files and wave files, he can record music tracks that have been sent via e-mail or someone could record music on something he has e-mailed.

"You look at albums that are being recorded by major recording labels, and a lot of times, the artists who sing the songs never even meet or see the person that plays guitar, or the guy that plays the bass and the drums are recording in Kansas City and they send that to Nashville," he said.

"And now it's pretty neat that the unsigned musicians can have a chance to do a similar thing," Wilson said.

James Passolt, a UNL junior business and philosophy major

and the artist behind the Lincoln band Trinity Sound System, an act that makes \$50 to \$75 a month on the site, said he likes mp3.com because it's free and a great way for people to get their music out.

"I get e-mails every day from people all over the world that listen to my songs, and they like them," he said.

Passolt also said that one of the differences between mp3.com and Napster is that although people say they visit Napster to find new music, they probably don't. But with mp3.com, new music is always featured.

"You don't go there to look for Metallica or bands you've heard of before," he said. "If you go in there, you are looking for new music."

Second City to amuse Lied Center audiences

BY SEAN MCCARTHY

The touring company that spawned some of the most recognized talents on Saturday Night Live will perform at the Lied Center for Performing Arts tonight.

The Second City has been performing its comedic blend of songs, skits and improvisation for more than 40 years. Past members of The Second City comedy troupe include John Belushi, Mike Myers, Gilda Radner, Chris Farley and Joan Rivers.

Stuart Ranson, an actor with The Second City, has been with the Chicago-based ensemble for more than two years. One of the keys for The Second City performances is audience participation.

Ranson said the group ran into trouble when they performed at a club in New York state. When the troupe asked the audience to name a scene, everyone in the audience came up with a lewd suggestion.

"People were saying 'warehouse' for a setting," Ranson said. "And we would have to take the exact setting the audience gives you because that is one of the rules for The Second City."

Celeste Pechous, a touring actress for The Second City, said she improvises about 30 percent of her material for every performance. Pechous said the acting troupe is always there to catch her during the more awkward bits of improvisation. However, sometimes the actors can be too funny.

"There are some scenes people will pull out, and you will try so hard not to laugh," she said.

The Second City performance tonight will feature a "best of" series of skits as well as new skits and, of course, improvisation. In past performances, actors would go out in the audience and ask members to read headlines from newspapers. They would then construct a skit around those headlines.

Pechous has been touring with the group for about eight months. Before that, she worked in radio and had some writing gigs. She once wrote knock-knock jokes for the Dixie Cup Company.

So far this year, The Second City has performed throughout the United States. They have played in venues that have seated anywhere from 50 to 1,400 people. The ensemble has formed a tight chemistry from the extensive touring, Pechous said.

"You live and breath with these people," she said. "You finish their sentences."

The six-member ensemble performs bits of improvisation as well as songs and skits. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the Lied Center box office.

Proceeds from Friday's performance will go to the Lincoln-Lancaster County Habitat for Humanity Women's Build.

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