56 Sparks

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Get Classical

The Duo Pach will start off

with their Fridays at Noon

series on October 5, 12:30 at

Mem Hall. They have named

their series Connexions, and

have organized the programs

geographically; that is, by the

countries from which the

music originates. They start

with the English Connection,

and on succeeding weeks

explore those Germany,

Norway, Italy, Bohemia, and

Russia. I will keep you

informed in this column of the

programs they will play, and I

will continue to urge you to

go. The music is excellent,

Arlene very charmingly

introduces the music, and it is

a thoroughly pleasant

My own series, the

Wednesday Noon Recital

Series, will start October 31,

again at 12:30 at Mem Hall.

For this series I invite

musicians to play with me, so

the nature of the music played

changes quite radically from

example the Saint John String

Quartet will join me for the

October 31 concert, Fran Grey,

a pianist from PEI for the

second, Penny Mark, a

harpsichordist from Mt. A for

the next. The fourth concert is

built around the lovely

Schubert Quartet for flute,

guitar, viola and 'cello, and I

will be joined by Madeline

Arel, flute, Stephen Peacock,

guitar, and Sonja Adams,

cello. The final concerts are

built around a Trio concert

being given on Dec. 2, and so

my guest for the fifth concert

will be cellist Rick Naill who

was once 'cellist of the

Brunswick Quartet, and for the

sixth concert, pianist Paul

Stewart, who many of you will

remember with pleasure for his

Plan on taking in as many of

these noon hour concerts as

possible. Not only will you

find them a welcome break in

the routine, but you probably

meet some very agreeable

people there, and find out a lot

about music as well. Watch

this column for news of and

comments about the programs.

performances last year.

concert to concert.

experience.

by Paul Campbell

UNB maintains a residency programme which both enriches the cultural life of the University and aids the flow of creative juices for faculty and students. For instance, our new Writer-in-Residence this year is Bill Gaston, a friendly and easy-going (it seems) Canadian novelist, who will spend his year here writing, arguing with his colleagues, and meeting any of you students who aspire to be writers and want him to look over your manuscripts. Give him a buzz at the English Department if you want to talk writing. The Saint John campus of UNB has a residency agreement with the Saint John String Quartet whereby they give a series of concerts and lectures to the University community. And here in Fredericton we have a Musicians-in Residence programme, which for many years was the home of the Brunswick String Quartet and Arlene Nimmons Pach, pianist. Recently, due to budgetary restrictions, the Quartet was disbanded, and we are now left with three Musicians-in-Residence, John and Arlene Pach who play as the Duo Pach, and myself.

Probably the most visible activity of the Musicians-in-Residence is the series of concerts we give during the academic year. Most of these concerts are at noon-hour, 12:30 to be more precise, and are considered "brown bag" concerts: that is, bring your own lunch, and eat it (quietly if possible) as you listen. There is no charge for these concerts (this is the "best bargain" I mentioned at the end of my article last week), and it is a marvelous chance to hear a wide variety of music. For many in the audience they become an island of contentment in an otherwise hectic week. For many others it is an opportunity to find out why this stuff we call classical music has hung around for so long, and what it is all about. I urge you to try them, to see if they are to your liking.

Wild at Heart

by Iggy

Ah, yes, a record review. Where to begin? Most obvious and best choice...the beginning.

Hello boys and girls, today we're going to talk about the original soundtrack to David Lynch's new movie "Wild at Heart".

For those of you who have been living under a rock for the past year here's the low-down. David Lynch, the hottest new director in hollywood, whose credits include "Blue Velvet" and the phenomenal T.V. series "Twin Peaks", has made a new movie - "Wild At "Heart" (which, incidentally, won Best Picture at the Cannes Film Festival 1990) and this is the soundtrack to that movie in a nutshell.

Now, if you're anything like me you probably shy away from soundtracks. The reason being that the majority of them have only one or two good songs. However, when I listened to "Wild At Heart" I

was pleasantly surprised.

The opening piece on the album in an excerpt of classical music from Im Abendrot by Richard Strauss. A nice piece which is well performed, nuff said. Now don't get me wrong, I like classical music, but what can be said about it that hasn't

already been said. Like Twin Peaks this album contains quite a few tracks by Angelo Badalamenti (4 to be exact). All of which are in Angelo's simplistic yet intriguing style. Dark Lolita and Cool Cat Walk are two of particular note. The latter is a jazz style piece which reminds one vaguely of Harry Connick Jr., It does, however, have a certain something that makes it unique. Dark Lolita is a little diamond of a song that will slip under your skin and caress you like smooth hand. Badalamenti is in top form

with this one.

Another recurring sound on the album is that of the 50's. With no less than four songs done in that wonderful doo wop sound. The big surprise here is that Nicholas Cage (you know that funny looking actor-fella)

sings two of them, and he's good. Yes folks, that's right, Mr. Cage sounds pretty good when he's crooning the tunes. Love Me and Love Me Tender (yes, the Elvis one) are the songs to which I refer. On both tracks Cage sings well and they sound great, but, they also sound very campy and hammed up. As a result one get a mental picture of Nicholas Cage in sequins - and that's just not healthy. (I should also mention that Bebop A Lula graces the soundtrack with it's presence)

The other shocker on the album, aside from Cage singing, is a blasting heavymetal tune called Slaughterhouse by the band Powermad. They're not the heaviest group around, but they're giving it a pretty good try. I must say that this is one the better metal songs that I've heard in awhile. If, however, you are (God forbid) a metal hater don't let this song discourage you, the rest of the album is too good to pass up.

Chris Isaak is the obvious king on this compilation with his songs Wicked Game and Blue Spanish Sky. This man is on to something. He has a strange and haunting yet very appealing style to his music. It wraps itself around you and his voice - albeit vaguely like Roy Orbison's but a little deeper - is smooth, easy to listen to and hypnotic.

The only disappointment on the "Wild At Heart" soundtrack was actually written by David Lynch and Angelo Badalamenti. With Lynch doing the lyrics and Angelo the music. It is called Up In Flames and is performed by Koko Taylor. It's not a terribly bad song, it's just not a very good one. Listen to it and you'll know what I mean.

So if you like mellow, almost gothic music or the 50's style doo-wop, or if you like variety on an album (or if you just like David Lynch) this this album is for you. On the Iggy scale of 1 to 10 this baby slams in at about an 8. (pick it up, you'll like it, trust

me)

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