

Classic Lyons

by Leith Chu — Brunswickan

Trish Lyons is the new classical D.J. at CHSR-FM. On Wednesday afternoons at 2 p.m. she hosts A Touch Of Class, a three-hour specialty show of (what else?) classical music. Like her predecessor, Alistair Ingram, hers is a solitary voice in campus radio; the only D.J. specializing in classical music.

In her senior year at UNB, Lyons says that she always wanted to do a classical show. "I met the classical (radio) host four years ago and it interested me." When the Brunswickan asked why classical music interested her, she responded "I find it incredibly powerful music. I studied ballet for twelve years. I was always exposed to it there, and it wasn't just listening to it. Ballet tuned my ear to the rhythm of music. Ballet was really the major influence, although I took piano and flute lessons, as well as playing the french horn, guitar, and harmonica."

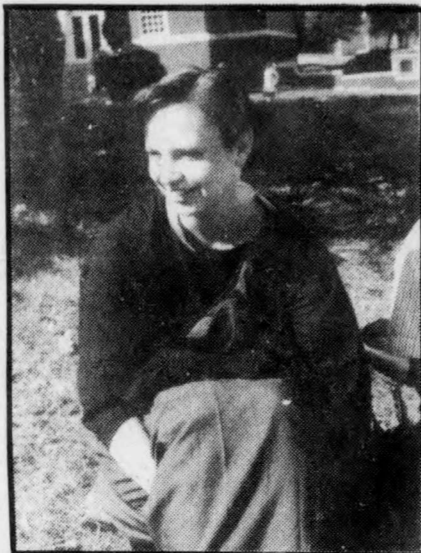
At UNB Lyons is a history major. "The courses I took in music history enriched my background and increased my appreciation of classical music. For instance, although it's very cliché, Beethoven is my favorite composer. I find that his works are emotional and exciting. His whole life is interesting. The emotionalism (in his works) has tremendous appeal to me."

The Brunswickan asked Lyons about her other favorite composers. "I like Bach. His music is so lively and light. It's enjoyable, pleasant. And John Cage and Philip Glass are interesting. They are experimenting on music, on ideas. They take advantage of their musical knowledge, like the (traditional) classical composers did."

When asked about other music she liked, Lyons said, "I like good music. Kate Bush and David Byrn are tremendously talented and enjoyable to listen to."

When asked about the music of today in general, she said that pop music "is a reflection of today's society. We have a huge middle class" as compared to the tiny middle class of earlier eras. Lyons also sees the reflection of society in the technology used, and in the fact that, like styrofoam, pop music is "disposable", meaning that it can be discarded with ease.

When asked what her program is like, Lyons said that



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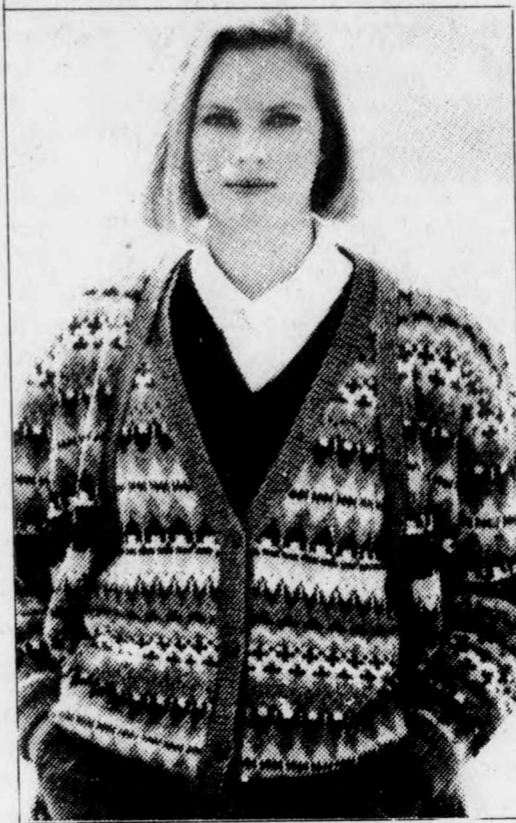
"right now, I'm still adjusting and not really organized yet. First of all, I have a few restrictions. Canadian content isn't difficult, since anything performed by Canadians or recorded in Canada, as well as Canadian compositions, qualifies. The music library at CHSR is more restrictive. It's not that large, and contains a lot of opera, which I don't play much on the show. Opera is one of my favorite forms of music. I have a love for Italy and its language, but it doesn't appeal to that many people. And then, one opera could completely fill a program."

"Right now, I'm putting together programs based on letters of the alphabet. For instance, last week was "A" week. I focused on autumn (Vivaldi's Autumn concerto from The Four Seasons), America (Duorak's New World Symphony), Austrian composers, and academic (Brahm's Academische Festoverture)."

"The Academic Festival Overture is really quite interesting. Apparently, the school it was written for granted Brahms an honorary degree. Brahms said thanks and all that, while the school really wanted him to compose something for it. They told Brahms this, and so he wound up composing the Overture."

The Brunswickan asked Lyons about her thoughts on music in the province. She said "there seems to be a lack of support for music here. I mean, look at the high school. How large is it — 3000 students? — and it doesn't have an orchestra. And UNB doesn't have a fine arts faculty, much less an orchestra. There are so many talented people here; I think that fine arts should be encouraged more."

"If I had a million dollars, do you know what I'd do? I'd build a Fine Arts building here on campus for a Fine Arts faculty, that's what I'd do."



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