

Seasonal Favorites Highlight Winter Choral Celebration

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas Choral Ensembles will present their annual Winter Concert 8 p.m. on Friday in the Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall.

"A Winter Choral Celebration" features the University Singers, University Chorale and Varsity Men's Glee Club, conducted by David B. Weiller, and the Women's Chorus, conducted by Jocelyn K. Jensen. The Durango High School Concert Choir, conducted by Craig A. McCauley, will perform as guest artists.

Special highlights of this year's concert include popular seasonal favorites performed by soloists from the University Singers. The University Chorale, which performs as the chorus-in-residence for the Nevada Symphony Orchestra, will perform highlights from George Frederic Handel's beloved oratorio, "Messiah". Other composers represented include Johannes Ockeghem, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Randall Thompson.

Audience members will be invited to make donations to a unique "Kiss-A-Pig" fund-raiser, which will take place during the intermission and involves faculty members from the College of Fine and Performing Arts. The

event is one of many special activities sponsored this year in support of the University Singers' tour to Great Britain next May.

The university choral ensembles maintain an active schedule of appearances each season and enjoy an outstanding reputation throughout the southwest. The choirs present several concerts each year on the university campus, in the greater Las Vegas community, and also tour out of state annually.

Under the leadership of Weiller, director of choral studies, the university choirs have been invited to perform for numerous music conventions and festivals. Weiller is a past recipient of the UNLV William Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Jensen, founder of the UNLV Women's Chorus, is chair of the Fine Arts Department of Eldorado High School, where her choirs present innovative concert programs of the highest caliber. In 1989 she was chosen by her colleagues as Nevada's Music Educator of the Year and is president-elect of the Nevada chapter of the American Choral Directors Association.



The UNLV Choral ensembles will present their annual Winter concert "A Winter Choral Celebration" at 8 p.m. on Friday in the Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall.

The 60-voice Durango High School Concert Choir is in its second year and has already established a reputation as one of the many fine high school choirs in the Clark County School District. McCauley is in his 10th year of teaching choral music. A

graduate of the University of South Dakota, McCauley has taught music at all levels in Clark County. Under his leadership, the Concert Choir recently represented Nevada at the American Choral Directors Association Western Division Student Sym-

posium in Flagstaff, Ariz.

General admission for "A Winter Choral Celebration" is \$6; students, seniors and military are \$4.

For more information, call the Performing Arts Center Box Office at 895-3801.

Conway to Star in own Play to Benefit Arts Center

Tim Conway, a four-time Emmy Award winning comedian-actor during his days on *The Carol Burnett Show*, will star in an original play, *Just for Laughs, a Day with Gates and Mills*.

A benefit for the University of Nevada Las Vegas Performing Arts Center, sponsored by KVBC-TV 3, the play opens at 8 p.m. on Tuesday in the Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall and will run through Friday Dec. 9.

Tom Poston, a versatile comedian-actor, is also starring in the play. He is best known for playing dumb handyman George on "The Bob Newhart Show."

This is the first original play written by Conway. The results, according to the critics, are hilarious. *Variety* said that Conway and Poston deliver "what the title promises: just laughs."

In fact, in post-curtain chatter they urge "anyone finding redeeming social value in the play" to contact them immediately. Not to worry. But when it comes to making an audience laugh to the point of tears for two hours, "this show is a winner."

The play follows a comedy team, Gates and Mills, though a typical work day. That is, a day as about as typical as it gets for two writers black-balled a couple of decades earlier because one of them insulted a national talk show host.

The truth is, no one will give them work. However, they keep showing up every day, mainly to torment each other. Then, amazingly, they get a second chance.

Poston's credits include tele-



Gates (Tom Poston) listens as Mills (Tim Conway) "negotiates" their way back into show business in Conway's play *Just for Laughs, a Day with Gates and Mills*.

vision, film, and stage. His television roles include *Mork and Mindy* and *The Bob Newhart Show*. He was in the national tour of Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*.

In supporting roles are Gabor Morea, Cathy McAuley, and Sandy Roveta. Morea appeared on Broadway in the play *Filomena*, directed by the late Sir Laurence Olivier, as well as *Steam Bath* and *Grand Magic*. McAuley has appeared in more than 30 stage productions, including *Cabaret* and *Damn Yankees*. Roveta's credits on Broadway include *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* and *Here's Love*. On TV,

she has performed in *Charlie's Angels* and *Kojak*, among others.

The performance of *Just for Laughs, a Day with Gates and Mills* is part of a national tour. The play is a Richard Akins production.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Dec. 6, 7, 8, and 9. Tickets are \$17.50, \$24, \$30, and \$37.50 and are on sale at the Performing Arts Center box office. Box office hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For ticket information call 895-3801.

Mazzy Star Puts Crowd Into Trance

BY DANNY KIM
STAFF WRITER

Last Friday, the day after *Turkey Day*, *Jesus and Mary Chain* was the top-billed act at the Huntridge Theater.

Opening for JAMC was Velvet Crush and Mazzy Star. With a slight delay, Velvet Crush proceeded to make life nauseating for my entourage of guests. As the band dragged on, I began to get excited . . . one of my favorite bands would hit the stage.

After the woeful performance by Velvet Crush, I wandered into the pit area. The ambient violet light dispersed by a fine mist provided a fitting entrance for Hope Sandoval, David Roback, and company.

As she began to play a har-

monica into the microphone, the crowd hushed into a subdued listening state. Sandoval's delicate voice didn't carry well over the microphone, and the overpowered bass didn't help at all. It was like trying to play a cello with a sword; doesn't happen that way.

Of the songs they performed, I recognized "Halah" and "Ride It On" from *She Hangs Brightly* (1991), and "Fade Into You," "Wasted," and the title track from their recent album, *So Tonight That I Might See*.

I wanted to kill the sound technician during a couple of songs, especially "So Tonight That I Might See." During that song, Sandoval utters poetic lines which are difficult to understand;

Please see Trance—8

Dance Offers Sustenance for the Culturally Starved

BY APRIL L. ALOIAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Greetings to all those who are culture starved.

I am here to let you know that there is culture at UNLV, and it only costs \$5.00 with your student ID.

Two weekends ago, our dance department put on an entertaining and provoking show. It included 13 different pieces that ranged from modern to jazz to ballet. This was a choreography showcase for the students, so most of the comments will be on the student choreographer's decisions.

The show opened with *New Dog... Old Tricks*. What a great way to set the tone for an hour and half dance concert. Kenna, the choreographer showed her sassy side. Al Green's music made me tap my toes I watch

this piece unfold. It had well accomplished complex floor patterns and timing sequences. The four dancer preformed with energy and excitement. The lighting was appropriate, but nothing memorable. The costumes worked well and the colors helped establish the mood. All of this was framed in a humorous and fun to watch situation.

Anticipation Lived with us followed. This intense, modern number delivered strong shapes and simple paradox's, but lacked imagination. All three dancers illustrated absolute control and strength, yet their costumes contributed nothing. The lighting was dramatic, but sometimes took away from the dancers.

...And there is no new thing under the sun, the choreographer, Ms. Guenther, chose her

Please see Dance—9