



Kyle Sanna watches a TV screen for the scene changes during his band's rehearsal of 'The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari' Wednesday in 180 PLC. *Nick Medley/Emerald*

## Student composer jazzes up silent film

*Kyle Sanna will perform his score at a showing of the film next week*

By Peter Breaden  
*Oregon Daily Emerald*

Kyle Sanna looks a little pale, a little crazed. For six months, he has been formulating and composing the score for the silent film "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari."

"There have been a lot of jokes at the music school — people calling me Kyle-gari," he said after Wednesday's dress rehearsal. He doesn't expect to be enormously relieved after the four shows.

"No. It's definitely made me want to check some more stuff

out," said Sanna, a jazz studies major.

The post-World War I, German expressionist film runs in PLC 180 tonight and Saturday at 7 p.m. with two more shows at 7 p.m. on Nov. 6 and 7. Sanna plays electric guitar while conducting a five-piece band that accompanies the film.

Sanna chose the film early last summer and began composing songs for each scene during the hour-long film.

"I checked out a silent movie every night," he said. "Each one I watched as if it was going to be the one."

The silent film's score is more prominent, especially because it's live, Sanna said.

"What I set out to do was to create an accompaniment. I almost want the audience to forget about the music," he said.

Sanna has written "Free" for certain scenes, allowing the musicians to create mayhem by improvising parts of each performance.

"Busy, busy stuff," student musician Matt Shevitz said about the score. "It's not as much the characters we're trying to get as the panic."

The film begins as a story told by a mental patient, Francis. He describes a carnival that came to a small German town called Holstenwall.

The doctor draws the interest of the town when he reveals his bizarre sideshow, Cesare, a somnambulist (one who walks or performs an act while sleeping). Cesare shakes up the town with a horrific prophecy.

"It's strange," Sanna said, "there aren't really any movies that were imitating that movie. It was highly influential, but there aren't any Caligari copiers."

"Caligari" was easy to compose for as an expressionist film, Sanna said.

"It was especially vibrant," he said. "It really was fairly easy to incorporate the music with that film."

The expressionist acting draws the music to a psychotic fervor.

"Their movements are reduced to the bare minimum. It creates a very straight-forward expression of the characters' inner feelings," Sanna said.

The EMU Cultural Forum is sponsoring "Caligari," the second film in the past year with a student-written score. The first film ran last spring when Brian McWhorter arranged a jazz score for the film "Metropolis." Sanna played guitar in McWhorter's band.

Sanna's artistic influences come from rock, jazz and atonal classical music.

The score's eerie instrumentation consists of Shevitz playing clarinet and soprano saxophone, Daniel Powell on bassoon and tenor sax, Daniel Stotz on double bass, Randy Rollofson on drums and Sanna on electric guitar.

"I wanted instruments that could capture that carnival sound," Sanna said. "I found the players to fit that ... people trained not only classically but in jazz."

Three of the musicians alternate between two instruments, with Powell and Shevitz each playing two instruments and Stotz playing the bass bow.

For Sanna, composing is no chore.

"How can you count the time that you spend composing? I'll be composing walking to Cafe Roma."

### The best Halloween parties in town are right here on campus October 31st!

3:00-7:00 p.m. EMU Food Court  
**Indoor tailgate party to watch  
No. 12 UO vs. No. 13 Arizona\***  
Big screen TVs

50¢ food menu: pizza, hotdogs, soda; plus half-price subs  
**Free half-time drawing for two 50-yard-line tickets to  
UO vs Washington (must be present to win)**

9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.  
**Eat, Drink, and Be Scary**  
Dance in Carson Dining Room  
student ID required  
costume and swing dance contests with prizes

10:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.  
**Rocky Horror Picture Show\***  
Pre-show contests with prizes  
Free for UO students in costume  
\$3 UO student without costume  
\$5 general public  
EMU Ballroom

12:00-2:00 a.m.  
Wrap up the evening with  
**free coffee, cider, & donuts\***  
EMU Rec Center Lobby

Plus...  
**EMU Rec Center and The Buzz**  
open all day until 2:00 a.m.

\*Drawing for two \$25 UO Bookstore gift certificates at each of these designated events.

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