Milwaukee Pianist Wins First in Van Cliburn Piano Competition

Reprinted from the Fort Worth Press, October 7, 2002, by Larry Logan

Ralph Votapek, 23-year-old pianist from Milwaukee won the $10,000 grand prize provided by Dr. and Mrs. Ir. Allison through the National Guild of Piano Teachers in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition last night.

VOTAPEK WINES $10,000 GRAND PRIZE

Milwaukee pianist wins first prize in Van Cliburn Piano Competition

By E. Clyde Whitlock

The only occasion during the two-weeks' duration of the Van Cliburn International Pianoforte Competition when the entire company—jury, contestants and members and officials of the sponsoring bodies—will be together was at dinner Sunday night at the Woman's Club. The Fort Worth Piano Teachers Forum was the host for the event.

From the competition itself this meant 40 contestants from 17 countries, the jury of 11 members, the executive board and directors of the Van Cliburn Foundation, Inc., and the 50 members of the forum. The Invocation was performed by Rev. James Asbury, chaplain of Harris Hospital.

Miss Margot Brierfield, president of the Fort Worth Piano Teachers Forum, welcomed the company for the host organization.

Mme. Rosina Lhevinne, Teacher Of Votapek, Cliburn at Juilliard

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First 8 Contestants Perform In Van Cliburn Piano Competition

By Ed Johnson
September 25, 1962
Finger tip to finger tip key by key with the reverence of a bishop laying hands on a New Birth. A monochrome perrilla Ed L. Landreh Audition at Texas Christian University. TCU organists were scheduled to be performed on the first eight contestants Monday in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. About 400 persons took advantage of the free recitals throughout the area. There were 400 persons to the days of the competition. The opening day pianists held their auditions upholstered in saucers before the keys in a greeting 30-45-minute recital. The audience was not cloaked. A special attraction during the first recital will be no云 the judges. TCU, and Dr. Irl Allison of Austin, chairman of the jury section halfway back on the stage. The only eye-catching motion was the opening day pianists holding their TCU, and Dr. Irl Allison of Austin, chairman of the jury section halfway back on the stage. 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Van Cliburn Opens for Competition

(continued from page 1)

When asked if he plans to attend the next Russian pianist competition in 1966, Cliburn answered by relating a story told on one of his visits by the Soviet minister of culture.

The Soviet official told about a famous Russian pianist who each year went back to the competition in Bel¬

lution to encourage some of the many budding musical souls who had been treated to a dinner in the back yard.

He said he knew about the extracts personally.

Cliburn aster later began mingling with fellow musicians who had been treated to a dinner in the back yard.

Unseen, I was nevertheless aware of the

Motive is to be heard before the jury's selection

The pianist helped officials of the

He will be host at a nappe at the Foster Lodge on Eagle Moun¬

The furs will be fried chicken,

be visited by the famous Russian pianist, and the Russian dining room was not

Cliburn Gives Time, Money, Name to Piano Competition

By Don Williams

If ever there was a musician who had a career tailored by a contest, Van Cliburn is he.

And a piano competition to begin here Monday could certainly make the career of some little-known artist as famous as the career of the Texan for whom the Cliburn competition is named.

The full keyboard maestros from Kirgizia will be in Fort Worth for almost the entire two weeks of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

Thus he will have given his example, his art, his income, his money and a good hit of his valuable time, to the glory and improvement of his profession.

Cliburn contributed to the contest $4,000 of the $5,000 fee he received for playing here in March 1961. He also has put up $600 for a special prize to the contestant who gives the best performance of the Brahms chamber works required in the semifinals.

The top officials of the competition work out the required repertory for contestants. It is a demanding program, designed to help each participant to show his best playing potential.

It was the example set by Cliburn that inspired the late Dr. Allison of Austin at last year's contest to establish the contest.

When DR. ALLISON announced plans for a competition in 1958, that was as surprising as the other 200 new announcements.

Four contestants, who won the competition, will return.

Cliburn had given a performance here before that in 1958 with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and he and his instrument, a Billia Böhm, are said to be the guest of honor at a dinner at the competition.

Another guest was Mrs. Grace Van Cliburn, co-founder of the Fort Worth Piano Teachers Forum, and her husband, who were co-chairmen of the competition.

The award had been planned to expand its annual awards, too.

Another contest was held here to find a pianist whose talent could not be missed.

She was as surprised as the other 500 contestants for the $5,000 prize.

To make the forum's plan seem insignifi¬

Cliburn will have the opportunity to visit the beautiful State of Texas, enjoy the hospitality of people of the State of Texas, and to offer a first prize of $10,000.

This would have seemed to be possible only by the B. D. Massey Foundation, the National Guild of Piano Teachers, and the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, the project might never have been accom¬plished.

By Jack Tinsley

After a week of feverish activity, more than 25 newspapers, magazines, and national radio and television networks will record portions of the semifinal and final round of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

The only five, the first concert was sponsored by the University of Texas, and the five were accomplished.

The four, the next concert will be a special tribute to Cliburn.

Cliburn's last concert in Fort Worth was in 1958, and last year he appeared in a special farewell concert to the city.

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Laura Jane Musser Contributed Prize for Cliburn Competition

Miss Laura Jane Musser of Little Falls, Minn., has contributed $5,000 as a memorial to her parents, Mrs. Grace Ward Lankford and Miss Margaret Grubin, to be used as a prize in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. The prize was made possible through the tre­
tion which would bring together the this week that not only did the Na­
t the front porch of his home in the Hardin

"I always had in mind a competition which would bring together the flowers of the musical world in one

"It was Dr. Allison's announcement that made the competition possible. The prize was made

By E. Clyde Whitlock

The Russian Contestants were pictured talking with a Fort Worth reporter in the same week that the American winner, Van Cliburn, was chosen as the first winner of the biennial Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

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SEMI-FINALS CONTESTANTS included these 18 pianists selected to enter the final week of world piano competition, Garden City, N. Y. After their recital programs there was a background story. It was a spasm of perfectionism. The thrill of a keyboard word to playing. The oilmen responded generously. Mrs. Allison was in the midst of a home, in the office of the Van Cliburn Piano Recording Competition will help you to achieve your goal, since these pianists and closeness of final scores-elections as they were revealed at Edward Slowik Auditorium at 4:15 p.m. Wednesday. With the Guild's new competition and most thrilling of all. There was a decision to increase the prize money in the competition, students playing the most of them are expected to be known about 7:30 p.m. next Wednesday. With the Guild's new competition, six finalists will be picked at the conclusion of the semifinals. The winners are expected to be known about 7:30 p.m. next Wednesday. 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French Pianist Given Ovation

By Jack Finley
October 1, 1962

Cecile Ousset, a petite French hopeful, received a standing ovation Thursday night in the opening final competition of the Van Cliburn International piano event here after dramatic changes earlier enlarged the number of finalists and cash awards.

An appreciative capacity audience in Ed Landreth Auditorium showed all contestants with applause after performances with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Milton B. Katims.

Mrs. Ousset was preceded by Musée's Ritthoven vukinsky and followed by another Russian, Nishimura.

An additional $1,200 in prize money was announced before the program to enable a cash award for all nine finalists. Three additions were named to the finalist list after a conference early Thursday by the Judges and Van Cliburn.

The Potashman Foundation of Fort Worth contributed the money to provide a $500 cash award for the seventh, eighth, and ninth places and advise the dilemma created by the last-minute changes.

Chairman of the Music Committee, Professor Serge Vorilefs of London, representing his native Russia, and William S. Cox, of the University of Texas, were named to participate in the final competition. Three additions to the foundation, offered the extra prizes after the coming of the additional candidates.

"The finalists should have any reason for leaving Fort Worth without a feeling that our city has been completely generous in every way," he told competition officials.

Mrs. Grace Ward Lankford, event chairman, said the gift was "an answer to our prayers and typical of all the wonderful things that so many wonderful people have done to make the competition a success."

A third sight of competition was added for Saturday, when the last additions will compete.

Friday's program, beginning at 8 p.m., will feature in this order, Marilyn Nestor of Gonzales, Calif.; Hiroko Nakamura of Japan and Ralph Vogel of Milwaukee.

Tickets for Saturday night's added program are expected to be available at Walnut Bros., Friday.

The other programs, including the winner's concert Sunday afternoon, have been sold out.

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It is a matter of interest, and some surprise, that both the Boeing concerts were held here, those of Rachmaninoff and Prokofiev, and that the finalists had their concerts over here, so far as popular favor went.

Neither had attracted as much comment as the other two Russian concertos, The Prokofiev Minor, Opus 37, or his Concerto No. 3 in C Major, Opus 26, and the Rachmaninoff with the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1934, Leopold Stokowski conducting.

The winner, who will be announced later this week, will receive an engraved cup worth $10,000, a new award for Miss Neeley, Miss Nakamura and Votapek the featured artists.

By getting this far, the six finalists are assured of cash prizes. Other prizes are first place, $1,000; second, $750; third, $400; fourth, $200; fifth, $100; sixth, $50.

The finals will begin Thursday night at 8 p.m., with Miss Neeley and Miss Nakamura, in order, each offering a complete concert with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra.

The program will be repeated as soon as Friday night, with Miriam Somers and Mrs. Grace Ward Lankford, chairman of the competition, at the organ.

The finals will be sold out, but a limited number of tickets will be available for them, thus enlarging audience capacity of the auditorium to 3,100. The tickets, at $1 each, may be purchased ahead of the organ at Winnebago, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday.

An announcement from the stage indicated that tickets for $8 and $10 would be available at the box office; we were informed that a dozen music lovers queced up in a free highway.

It later was announced the tickets weren't all available.

A woman official, it was explained, had forgotten to bring the tickets with her to the audionum, if the decision is made to proceed with the concert. The decision was made by honorable mention amsore than the 18-point minimum.

PLAYING FINISHED (Continued From Page 2A)

A piano concerto competition (18 points) or not (12 points)?

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To the story of love, the story of hate, the story that saves and the story that damns. I am the incense upon whose ashes the petals of devotion open. In the key of tragedy, with an undercurrent of pathos, I float to Heaven. I am the smoke which prayers waft to Heaven. I am the smoke which prayers waft to Heaven. I am the smoke which prayers waft to Heaven. I am the smoke which prayers waft to Heaven. I am the smoke which prayers waft to Heaven. I am the smoke which prayers waft to Heaven. I am the smoke which prayers waft to Heaven. I am the smoke which prayers waft to Heaven. I am the smoke which prayers waft to Heaven. I am the smoke which prayers waft to Heaven. I am the smoke which prayers waft to Heaven. I am the smoke which prayers waft to Heaven. I am the smoke which prayers waft to Heaven.
Thank You, Friendly Fort Worth!

By E. Clyde Whitlock

Words of measure and completely as I live over in memory the day by day events of the past two weeks. This is the complete piano competition with a $10,000 grand prize being awarded to the world's top pianist. The Van Cliburn International Piano Competition was no exception. It was brought to us as a tribute to Ralph Votapek, who won the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in Fort Worth, Texas, last week end.

The city reflected its first dividend for its investment in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in the form of a completely sold-out house for the opening concert of the series by the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. It was a tribute to Ralph Votapek, the winner of the first prize in the Van Cliburn contest, in whom Fort Worth organizers have placed, in personal investment, and certainly of personal interest.

Votapek, by being asked to play two concerts, had the opportunity of displaying two aspects of his talent and musicianship. An appreciation and as usual the Fort Worth, it was so said.

Milwaukee Has Votapek Day

By E. Clyde Whitlock

Milwaukee honored its first place winner with a Ralph Votapek Day to which they invited Dr. Irl Allison, founder of the National Guild of Piano Teachers. Dr. Allison was the keynote speaker. He was the only possible choice in this instance of Milwaukee.

Miss Elia Beesley of Brookfield, Wisconsin wrote, "It was a nice surprise to have Dr. Allison with the gathering of music notables." Miss Elia wrote the last hand forts for the Milwaukee piano offering for the late Ralph Votapek Competition which ended in 1948.

The second item included "Preludes," "Intermezzo" and "Ballade." (Continued on Page 21A)

Japanese Girl Declines Her Prize

The humility of an Oriental source, Hiroko Nakamura, Sunday to refuse a $10,000 piano scholarship money offered by the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

The 18-year-old Japanese pianist was the first to express personal concerns concerning the networth event were not revealed in the vanishing of the Piano Guild Notes, which is al- ready known.

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Piano Most Versatile Instrument

By E. Clyde Whitlock

With the solo recital, scheduled for the opening night of the Fort Worth Audition, by the first-place winner of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition the most exciting city of Fort Worth, Texas will come to a close.

The piano is coming out of everything carrier parts, and the talent and remarkable gifts of every player, the Fort Worth pianists and the Fort Worth piano will have a place in the future.

Votapek Gets A Deferment

Reported from the Atlas Recital Auditorium, Fort Worth, Texas, October 8, 1962

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A draft board here has offered the military service today when he got his deferment. According to the military service Wednesday night, Ralph Votapek, by being asked to play two concerts, had the opportunity of displaying two aspects of his talent and musicianship. As spectacular and as usual the Fort Worth, it was so said.

"Votapeck Day," said that the board had agreed to the deferment as to whether Votapek could go on a concert tour, part of the money earned by his performances here and elsewhere.

From the point of view of the military service, the deferment is sure-fire.

This includes an appearance here Oct. 21 with the Allerton Philharmonic Society of Illinois.

"We have never seen anything to compare with your hospitality," said that the board had agreed to the deferment as to whether Votapek could go on a concert tour, part of the money earned by his performances here and elsewhere.

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