Pianist loses competition but wins audience acclaim

Youri Egorov. He's 24 and charming with an easy air about him and a quick-to-flash

bis new piano career.

It all began, according to Egorov's mainager Maxim Gershundf whon the world of classical music.

While seated at the piano in Varner Recital Hall at Oakland University last Friday, preparing for his piano recital from the vening, Egorov talked about for that evening, Egorov talked about the competition, he didn't win.

Many there recognized the individuality and talent of Egorov and a quickly formed group raised a private award to expend the \$10,000 first, prize of the competition, he didn't win.

competition, to help Egorov with his career.

"He wasn't the spit-and-polish planist that juries like," said Gershunoff, who still remembers the effect Egorov's plano playing had on him when he first heard him in Texas.

"Your has too much imagination in his playing for the typical jury to award a first prize to.

iirst prize to.

"IT WASN'T an enraged audience that formed this group to raise the money for Youri," Gershunoff continued. "It was an involved audience. They think competition begins after the contest and Youri has carried his stripes on the concert stage."

Egorov seems to be taking all of his success in stride. Practicing while the commotion of lowering the Varner Recital Hall ceiling is going on, and a place commotion of lowering the Varner Recital Hall ceiling is going on, and a place that the commotion of lowering the Varner Recital Hall ceiling is going on, and a place. Hall ceiling is going on, and a place of long-reper law snapping fiss picture, he can be commotioned to the commotion of the commotion o

clop?"
He's been on tour in America since
October and will go to the Orient on
Feb. 25 with the Rotterdam Orchestra

for a 10-day tour, playing three con-certs and giving one solo recital.
Egorov lives in Amsterdam. He de-fected to Holland from Russis in 1974.
Since then, he's been on his own, having to make new friends to replace the family he had to leave behind.
The swimming and cross-country skiing enthusiast said he doesn't mind traveling and living out of a suitcase, though he doesn't like the way Ameri-can hotel rooms are either "too hot or too, too cold."
He also doesn't mind not having his

too, too cold."

He also doesn't mind not having his own piano, a Beckstein, to practice on while touring.

"I practice whenever and wherever I can," he said in his easily understood English. "I use the summer months when I'm not touring to practice my repertoire."

Egorov's recitals are comprised mostly of Bach, Mozart Chopin and Schumann pieces. He plans on expanding his selections next year, adding more modern works like compositions by Weis Bartol.

by Bela Bartok.

He's involved in music even when he's not performing, going to concerts whenever he can, he said, in Amster-dam where the musical life is full.

And where the musical life is full.

EGOROV BEGAN playing the piano because of the influence of his mother. His musical studies asked at the age of 6 at the Kaesan Conservatory, where he spent I I years.

The next six years were spent with the famous teacher Yalov Zak.
Now, since leaving Russia, he is his own teacher. Egorov is obviously doing a good job at it, since he's the first nonwinner of the Cilburn Competition to be the official guest artist performing for a gala benefit for the Van Climur Foundation. He was chosen as Musical America's selection for Musical America's selection for Musical of the Month for the magazine's July 1978 issue.

"He doesn't know how successful he is," said Gershunoff. "He's very unpre-tentious. On the horizon of young artists, Youri is probably the most sought after. He's sold out his tour for this season already, has next year's 1979-89.

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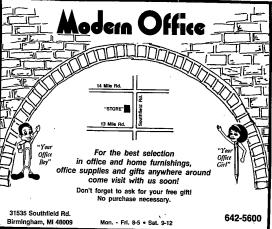
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Youri Egorov is fast becoming a classical music world idol. (Staff photo by Mindy Saunders)





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