

Pianist loses competition but wins audience acclaim

By SUSAN TAUBER

Youri Egorov. He's 24 and charming with an easy air about him and a quick-to-flash smile. He's comfortable traveling around the world, being interviewed and pho-

tographed while dressed in blue jeans and he loves New York City discos. He's also the hottest news item in the world of classical music. While seated at the piano in Varner Recital Hall at Oakland University last Friday, preparing for his piano recital for that evening, Egorov talked about

his new piano career.

It all began, according to Egorov's manager Maxim Gershunoff who was with Egorov at Varner Hall, when the young Russian competed in the Van Cliburn Quadrennial Piano Competition in Fort Worth, Texas, in September 1977.

Much to the surprise of the audience at the competition, he didn't win.

Many there recognized the individuality and talent of Egorov and a quickly formed group raised a private award equal to the \$10,000 first prize of the competition, to help Egorov with his career.

"He wasn't the spit-and-polish pianist that juries like," said Gershunoff, who still remembers the effect Egorov's piano playing had on him when he first heard him in Texas. "Youri has too much imagination in his playing for the typical jury to award a first prize."

"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 earned 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 photographer is snapping his picture, he continues his work oblivious to it all.

Playing a section of Schumann's "Carnaval," he stops suddenly, laughing, asking "Doesn't that sound just like a circus—horses going clop-de-clop-de-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 concerts and giving one solo recital.

Egorov lives in Amsterdam. He defected to Holland from Russia 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 American hotel rooms are either "too hot or too, too cold."

He also doesn't mind not having his own piano, a Bechstein, 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 Bela Bartok.

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

EGOROV BEGAN playing the piano because of the influence of his mother. His musical studies started at the age of 6 at the Kazan Conservatory, where he spent 11 years.

The next six years were spent with the famous teacher Yakov 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 Cliburn Competition to be the official guest artist performing for a gala benefit for the Van Cliburn Foundation. He was chosen as Musical America's selection for Musician of the Month for the magazine's July 1978 issue.

"He doesn't know how successful he is," said Gershunoff. "He's very unpretentious. 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 1979-80 season already booked and I'm now booking 1980-81 for him."



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

Modern Office

For the best selection in office and home furnishings, office supplies and gifts anywhere around come visit with us soon!

Don't forget to ask for your free gift! No purchase necessary.

31535 Southfield Rd. Birmingham, MI 48009 Mon. - Fri. 8-5 • Sat. 9-12

642-5600

Delco Craft Center

Salutes National Plastic Model Building Month With

Values! Values! Values!

Your Favorite 1/25 Scale

- Cars
- Pickups
- Vans

\$2.99

Each
Retail Value \$3.50

Plus Bonus!
Free Tube of Plastic Cement With Each Purchase
Limit—2 Tubes of Cement
Save. Save. Save on these famous name plastic model kits and get a tube of plastic cement FREE with each purchase. Two tube limit on cement, no limit on the number of kits you purchase. So, shop early while selection is complete.

Sale Effective: February 15-21

Delco Craft Center
DIVISION OF TRIARC ARTS AND CRAFTS

HOURS: Monday thru Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM
Thursday 10 AM to 9 PM

LIVONIA, MICHIGAN
31134 Five Mile Road
(313) 425-3690

Glidden

WALLCOVERING

\$1.00

SALE

On Glidden's Designer Vinyl Wallcoverings

Buy One at Regular Price

Get the Second Roll For \$1.00

Save up to \$13.99 per double rolls

Sample books available for home use.
Decorating advice, cost estimates, and how-to-do advice available FREE!

Glidden

PAINT-WALLCOVERING

"STORES YOU CAN BE LOYAL TO"

15970 MIDDLEBELT RD.
LIVONIA, MI 48154
Between 5 & 6 Mile Rds.
(313) 525-4350

Daily 9-6
Sat. 9-5

Sale Ends March 17th.

Save \$65 on RCA's Colorama TV Picture tube replacement

SALE \$159.95* Reg. \$225

* No charge for installation - Repairs to chassis are extra.

* RCA Colorama picture tubes fit most any make TV 19" - 21" 25" at \$65 savings now.

* If tube fails within 2 yrs. we'll replace it for labor cost only.

INCLUDES PICK UP, DELIVER, AND INSTALLATION CHARGE

STA-RITE TV

28915 Joy Rd. WESTLAND 525-5450

CHIROPRACTORS SEEK RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS

The International Pain Control Institute is presently engaged in what is the most extensive research program undertaken by the chiropractic profession. This research is directed toward determining the relationship between health problems and spinal misalignments and utilizes a screening process called Contour Analysis.

Volunteers are being sought for screening. Contour Analysis enables taking a three-dimensional picture (called Moire photography) of the topography of the surface of the spine to detect spinal stress deviations. This analysis will be correlated with leg deficiency, patient symptomatology, and levels of spinal tenderness. An analysis of this type can reveal such things as normal and abnormal stress patterns, spinal curvature, muscle spasms, muscle imbalances, spinal distortions, and scoliosis. A consultation and report of findings will be given to all participants.

This is a public service program for participating volunteers. The doctors are contributing their time, service, and facilities for the program. Anyone wishing to be a volunteer may telephone participating doctors directly for information or an appointment.

Dr. Walter S. Gross
27620 Five Mile
Livonia • 427-6333

Dr. Herbert A. Applebaum
27592 Schoolcraft
Livonia • 427-4300