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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "10/15/1982 - Music of the Americas Day" (1982). 1982. 299.
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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

October 15, 1982
Local (68)

HARRY READ, Director of Information and Publications (217) 581-2820

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Twenty-one high school pianists from a four-state region will participate in "Music of the Americas Day" at Eastern Illinois University on Saturday, Oct. 23.

Auditions will begin at 9 a.m. in the Dvorak Concert Hall. Sixteen contestants will play until noon and five more will perform from 1:30 to 2:20 p.m.

Judges will select winners from the first round, up to a maximum of ten, and the finals will begin at 3 p.m. Awards will be presented to the first, second and third place winners at 6 p.m.

One of the contestants, Steven Graff of Northbrook, recently won a \$5,000 cash prize in competition sponsored by "Seventeen" magazine and General Motors Corp.

Among other contestants will be Alice Kramer, Charleston; Marla Pasley, Mattoon; Sarah Hawbecker, Paris; Debbie Powell, Olney; and Alexa Babakhanian and Rudolf Haken of Champaign.

David Appleby, faculty member in the Music Department, is director of competition. He said all contestants would play one piece or a group of pieces by a composer from the U.S., Canada, or Latin America. States to be represented are Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Michigan.

Appleby said the competition "has been established as an annual event to encourage professionally-oriented high school pianists in the process of making career decisions.

"A second, but equally important goal is the encouragement of the teaching of challenging piano repertoire by composers from the U.S., Canada, and Latin America."

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The date has been designated "Music of the Americas Day" by the Charleston City Council, Appleby said.

The Bank of Charleston is sponsoring a first prize of \$500. Other awards are, second, \$250 by the Kirchner Building Center of Charleston; and third, \$100 by the student chapter of the Music Teachers' National Association of Eastern. Programs will be provided by the Witmer Furniture Co. of Charleston.

All auditions are free and open to the public, but admission is permitted only during ten-minute intervals between auditions, Appleby said.