



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Harry Hinshaw, UNL music professor, made it through the semifinals of the International American Competition during September in New York's Carnegie Hall.

Carnegie competition is first for piano-playing professor

By Susan MacDonald

At 56, Harvey Hinshaw thought he might be too old to compete in the International American Music Competition. He was surprised to find that most other competitors were in their early 30s, he said.

But the UNL music professor recalled that when the piano competition began three years ago, one entrant was older than he. That was Joanna Harris, widow of composer Roy Harris, who, coincidentally, had been one of Hinshaw's teachers when he was a teen.

Hinshaw competed with the younger musicians, and maybe his extra years of experience were a benefit. He reached the semifinals of the competition in New York City at the end of September, playing the works of American composer Charles Ives.

The International American Music Competition is sponsored by Carnegie Hall and The Rockefeller Foundation. Participants are required to play works written by 20th-century American composers.

The competition is cyclical: it started in 1978 with a competition for pianists, followed the next year by a competition for vocalists. Violinists compete in the third year of the cycle. Hinshaw competed in the first year of the second cycle.

Three-stage show

The competition has three stages: preliminary auditions, a semifinal round and the final round held a day later. The final round consists of a full recital held in Carnegie Hall.

Hinshaw, who has been at UNL since 1956, competed in the preliminary rounds in St. Louis last June. One of 12 semifinalists, he played in a Carnegie Hall audition for a live audience, which was covered by cable television.

After the last semifinalist had played, Hinshaw said he and the others sat in the first row of the hall, waiting for more than an hour while the judges deliberated.

Anderson speech Wednesday

When John B. Anderson began his trek toward the Republican presidential nomination in 1980, his greatest appeal appeared to be with college-age voters.

As their first nationally-recognized speaker this semester, University Program Council officials hope Anderson's youth appeal is still strong.

"I think he appeals to the student, and hopefully he can give some insights into the last presidential campaign," said Paul Ecoffey, chairman of Talks and Topics of UPC.

Anderson's 7:30 p.m. speech is scheduled for the Nebraska Union Centennial Room. Although Anderson will discuss "The Future of American Politics," Ecoffey said the speech could encompass any number of topics, depending on the direction Anderson takes.

"We wanted to keep it broad for him so in case anything happened between now

and Wednesday he could comment on that," Ecoffey said.

"We also wanted to keep it simple so it would appeal to a large number of people instead of a specific group."

Anderson chose to run an independent campaign and finished third to President Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter with a total of 6 percent of the total vote. Anderson gathered 7 percent of the vote in Nebraska.

"As far as I know, he has done a limited number of lectures," Ecoffey said. "He's not a major lecturer."

Anderson's stay in Lincoln will be highlighted by a class lecture, a taping at the Nebraska Educational Television Network and a press conference.

"The total cost for getting Anderson here was \$5,000, which is about the average for a top speaker," Ecoffey said. "But we feel his speech and the rest will be worth it."

When the judges returned and one of them stood on stage to make the announcement, Hinshaw said he knew he hadn't made the finals before the names were read. The judge was holding a piece of paper with the names written on it, and with the light shining through, "nothing looked like Harvey Hinshaw backward," he said.

The competition was eventually won by Randall Hodgkinson of Cambridge, Mass.

Hinshaw said he was disappointed he didn't advance to the finals, but added that he may enter again, doing a few things differently next time.

Musical family

Hinshaw said he became interested in the piano when he was 5. Although he didn't have a regular teacher for two years, he said an older brother and his mother taught him how to read notes. All of his five older brothers have done something with music, he said, although only one has stuck with it professionally.

A native of Pasadena, Calif., Hinshaw attended Pasadena Junior College for two years, and then switched to Occidental College in Los Angeles. Although he changed majors three times, he graduated from Occidental with a degree in music in 1949.

"I graduated a music major, but I still didn't know what to do," Hinshaw said.

For several years thereafter, Hinshaw worked as an accompanist, with such stars as John Charles Thomas and Igor Gorin. He received his master's degree from the University of Southern California in 1956 and came to UNL.

When the next International American Music Competition rolls around, Hinshaw said he will be ready.

"I'll have the material ready sooner, and will use some of the same," he said. "A lot of my success is due to my own interest in American music."

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