

State and Local

Performance exudes excitement

Pianist magnetizes audience

By CYNTHIA GAY
Staff Writer



Hugh Tinney plays to an enthusiastic crowd in Rudder Theater Thursday night.

An internationally acclaimed pianist strode on stage Thursday night, labored upon the ivory keys for two hours and left behind a feeling of excitement.

As Hugh Tinney arose from his instrument, Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 24 in C minor still ringing in his ears, three encores were magnetically pulled from the Rudder Theater audience. Thirty musicians sat patiently behind him. The members of the Brazos Sinfonietta rested their violins, violas and violoncellos to savor the moment.

Director Franz Anton Krager of the Brazos Valley Symphony exchanged his conducting wand for a handshake with the pianist who has wowed audiences in Spain, Italy, New York, London, Dublin and now College Station. Krager, also a lecturer of philosophy and humanities, waited in the wings while Tinney played Chopin's Twenty-four Preludes, Op. 28.

Tinney said in an earlier interview that he had never played solo recital followed by a concerto in a single performance.

"I think it (the performance) will be very nice for the audience," he said. "It will be quite hard for me."

But Tinney showed no strain as he alternately glided and pounded through Chopin's 24 keys in a varying parade of trills and slow notes.

The 27-year-old pianist, who received 1983 Ettore Pizzoli Piano Competition and the Paloma O'Shea International Piano Competition in 1984, described Chopin's preludes as romantic but technically difficult.

Famous writer George Sand said of the pieces, "Many of them call up to the mind's eye visions of dead monks and the sound of

their funeral chants...."

Mixed with Mozart's Concerto, which tends to warm audiences, the evening promised to be demanding, Tinney said.

"It's just a challenge," he added with a grin.

As Krager kept his musicians in sync with Tinney, the concerto soared with a single flute and thrust forward with a volley of

violins echoed by the piano gracing the mood.

But Tinney's performance was preceded by another musical occurrence. He was awakened Thursday morning by some members of the Corps of Cadets running by his hotel room in the Memorial Student Center at 6 a.m.

Applications available for Battalion editor

The Student Publications Board is accepting applications for spring Battalion editor.

Applications are available in the communications department office, 230 Reed McDonald, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Deadline for submission of applica-

tions is 5 p.m. on Dec. 2.

The Battalion spring editor will serve from Dec. 16 through April 25.

Qualifications for editor of The Battalion are:

- Grade-point ratio of 2.0 or higher, overall and in major at the

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- And, at least one year of experience in a responsible editorial position on The Battalion or comparable student newspaper.

- Or, at least one year of editorial

experience on a commercial newspaper.

- Or, at least 12 hours of journalism including Journalism 203 and 303, or the equivalents. The 12 hours must include completion of or enrollment in Journalism 301.

Avid civil liberties defender speaks out to A&M crowd

By MARYBETH ROHSNER
Staff Writer

FBI agents monitored Frank Wilkinson's public speeches against repression of civil rights for 38 years. They wiretapped his phone and allowed assassins to plan an attempt on his life.

After dedicating over 40 years of his life to the protection of civil liberties, Wilkinson told an audience at Texas A&M Thursday night that his battle for civil rights is far from over.

"Potentially, I think the civil liberties and civil rights problems we face today are more serious than those we faced in the McCarthy era," he said.

And Wilkinson, 72, should know. In 1961 after refusing to answer questions from the U.S. House of Representatives UnAmerican Activities Committee, he was jailed for one year.

But he emerged from prison not as a disgraced criminal but as a man determined to abolish the very group that put him behind bars.

Though the UnAmerican Activities Committee was disbanded in 1975, Wilkinson said he believes the committee has been revived in recent years.

"It's now called the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Terrorism," he said. "(The Senate) is exploiting the national fear of international terrorism."

"If we needed any laws to deal with terrorism, they would be handled by other committees who are legally empowered to write criminal law."

Wilkinson said the terrorism committee infringes on freedoms of religion and press.

"The committee is revived again and will be used against people in this generation if they are overly involved in the peace movement, the civil rights movement, even the environmental movement," he said.

Wilkinson also said that President Reagan's executive orders have re-

stored violations of the First Amendment that were practiced by the FBI in the 1950s and '60s. Wilkinson, former executive director of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation, added that the problem of civil rights denial is now worse because of "coordinate repression."

"The checks and balances that are provided in the Constitution are not there anymore," he said. "We're getting coordinate repression from all three sides (the judicial, legislative and executive branches)."

Wilkinson said the Supreme Court, which has always declared unconstitutional any law that violated the Bill of Rights, is now upholding those laws.

In addition to the Supreme Court's defense of anti-civil rights legislation, he said Congress has sacrificed concern for rights for political expediency. He cited last year's Criminal Code Reform Act as an example of careless anti-civil rights legislation.

Wilkinson said the act allows police officers without proof of guilt to jail persons, even those charged with civil disobedience, for four days without bail.

Wilkinson's distaste for some of the U.S. government's actions are flavored by personal experience.

Wilkinson's lawyers estimate the FBI spent \$17 million to track him from 1942 when he left the Methodist ministry. Through the Freedom of Information Act, Wilkinson found the bureau kept a 132,000-page record on him until 1980.

While rummaging through the file, Wilkinson said he found a letter dated March 1964 and addressed to then-FBI director J. Edgar Hoover.

He said the letter referred to an assassination attempt made on him. The FBI knew about the attempt but failed to inform him. In fact, the bureau kept Wilkinson under surveillance the night they knew the assassins would make their move.

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