

Bach competition finalists

Six Canadian pianists — Tema Blackstone, Angela Hewitt, Arthur Rowe, Larissa Schneur, Joachim Segger and David Swan — have been selected from among 166 applications from 38 countries to participate in The 1985 International Bach Piano Competition to be held in Toronto May 1 to 12. The competition is a one-time event in celebration of the three-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach and the only music competition in North America this year to be named an official event of European music year. (See *Canada Weekly*, November 14, 1984.)

The 166 applications and numbered audition tapes were initially assessed separately by the screening committee consisting of Helmut Blume in Montreal, Leonard Isaacs in Winnipeg and Valerie Tryon in Hamilton. Because of the quality of the applications, the committee decided to accept 40 candidates instead of the scheduled 32 candidates.

"I have been terribly critical right from the beginning," said Valerie Tryon. "I have thought of them as world-class, not up-and-comers, because as soon as they win they are going to have to compete with the Richters and the Ashkenazies," she said.

Canada's competitors

The Canadian candidates have all studied with well-known teachers and have all received a number of prizes in previous national and international competitions.

- Tema Blackstone of Calgary, Alberta, 31, won the Concerto Aria in Boston in 1981 and the top prize in the duMaurier Search for the Stars in 1982 with her duo-piano partner Jon Kimura Parker.
- Angela Hewitt of Ottawa, Ontario, 27, has received first prize in the 1975 Chopin Young Pianists' Competition; first prize at the International Viotti Competition in Italy 1978; a prize in the 1976 International Bach Competition in Leipzig and the Dino Ciani Competition at La Scala in Milan 1980; and first prize of the 1978 CBC Radio Talent Festival.
- Arthur Rowe of McLennan, Alberta, 32, was a finalist in the Munich International Piano Competition in 1978 and he received first prize in the Concerto Competition in Austin, Texas in 1979.
- Larissa Schneur of Toronto, Ontario, 26, has received the French Ministry of Education Prize for Excellence 1983. She was first prize winner in Young Musicians' Competition, Long Island; in the "Discovery" Series Competition for New York Public Radio; and in the 1983 Artists International Competition



Yehudi Menuhin, honorary advisor, and key sponsors with three Canadian candidates. (From left): David Morton of Yamaha Canada Music, Jeffrey Smyth of Continental Bank of Canada, Yehudi Menuhin, candidates Joachim Segger, Tema Blackstone (seated) and Larissa Schneur.

in clarinet-piano duo with Julian Milkis.

- Joachim Segger of Edmonton, Alberta, 28, made his Carnegie Recital Hall debut through winning a competition held by the Canadian Women's Club of New York City 1978. He received the Merit Award from the Johann Strauss Foundation 1978 and was first prizewinner of the Concerto Competition of Eastman 1978.
- David Swan of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 25, was first prizewinner in the 1972 National Competitive Festival of Music, Toronto; first prizewinner in the Eckhardt-Grammaté Competition 1976; and first prizewinner in piano in CBC Talent Festival 1979.

Popular group featured in animated music video

Crawley Films of Ottawa, Ontario will soon present their first music video and it features the very popular rock group, Rush, based in Toronto. Crawley president, Bill Stevens said "it is the first time anyone has sat down with an act like Rush and produced a 25-minute animation show with them".

Rush, which has one of the best records of back catalogue sales in the business, is supplying the music for the video from about five of their albums. Crawley is providing about 100 artists including 50 of their own animators. The video is total animation with a science-fantasy theme about a time in the future when technology appears to have got out of control until men discover a means of using it.

Crawley Films is also making a first ani-

The 40 pianists representing 17 countries will participate in the opening rounds at the Premiere Dance Theatre in Toronto, May 1 to 9. The four finalists will perform in the Gala Finals at Roy Thomson Hall, May 11 and share in \$32 500 in prizes.

The 17 countries represented in the competition and the number of their successful candidates is as follows: one each from Belgium, Brazil, France, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, and the Soviet Union; two from Britain; three from West Germany; six from Canada; and 14 from the United States.

ated feature film based on Lynn Johnston's comic strip *For Better Or For Worse*, which appears in a number of Canadian daily newspapers. The \$600 000, half-hour special is scheduled to be released for the next Christmas season and will be titled *The Bestest Present*. Mrs. Johnston is working on all aspects of production including a 250-panel strip to be used as a basis for the characters and situations. Mrs. Johnston's son and daughter will provide the voices of the children in the special.

Completing the Crawley four-film animation package are two other children's films, *The Velveteen Rabbit* based on Marjorie Williams' story about a stuffed rabbit who becomes real, and *Rumpelstiltskin*, the classic fairy tale.