Van Cliburn Arrives For Opening of Contest

BY JACK TINSLEY

Harvey Lavan Cliburn Jr., America's favorite son of the piano, arrived here late Saturday night to head the pianistic salutary to the nation's first international piano competition which bears his name.

The willowy Texas artist, originally scheduled to arrive from New York in early afternoon, was delayed several hours after he missed a plane because of a traffic delay.

CLIBURN, better known by the last half of his middle name—Van—finally arrived on an 8:39 a.m. flight from Love Field and was given a warm welcome by bizarre County Sheriff's Department escort to Fort Worth.

Another delay of several minutes resulted when the car, driven by Alvin Emery got lost while trying to find the residence of Mr. and Mrs. George Armstrong of 8089 Kidgall Hill Rd., where all of the concert masters were waiting to greet him.

The amiable, 75-year-old pianist, was the out come from his greetings, which included competition officials.

ONE OF THE Russian contestants, Mikhail Vostresnoki, was also received by Col. Bowers and was shown where he would reside with Cliburn after they both competed in the Russian piano contest which ended the Texas fair.

Cliburn was met at Love Field by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Cliburn, who drove there from Shreveport, and a horde of reporters and cameramen.

Cliburn will only be here until Monday, when he has a commitment to return to New York to play in a concert with the Philadelphia Philharmonic Orchestra. The event, scheduled Tuesday night, is one of five concerts which will span the city's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

The BOYNTON celebrity will return to Fort Worth Wednesday night and stay for the remainder of the competition through Oct. 7. He will stay at the Hotel Texas.

After his arrival at the Russian-style mansion of the Armstrongs, Cliburn was ushered into a room for photographs with his famous fan mail. They exchanged warm comments.

Then Vostresnoki, who last saw Cliburn in 1958 to Moscow, was actually seated for several minutes with the Kliger piano, as he asked him, "Are you happy?"

Vostresnoki, whose affection for Cliburn was almost infinite, presented him with two envelopes containing personal messages for Cliburn and his mother from Vostresnoki, a Russian, who finished second to the Texas in the 1958 Moscow event.

IN THE COMPANY of the Russian, Cliburn was asked if he turn to physical on Page 2

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Earlier, in Dallas, when asked if he had asked any propensities in the mail, he was laughingly said, "I have, my secretary hasn't showed them to me. I have to ask about them."

When asked if he plans to attend the next Russian piano competition in 1968, Cliburn appeared by relating a story told on one of his visits by the Russian minister of culture.

"I went to Moscow to a special event and one of the Russian pianists who each year went back to the competition in Berlin after he had won the top prize once. "Now you win, you must go back," the official said. "Say that is in the way it is with me. I have 50 tickets to get back before 1968."

"Cliburn later began studying with fellow pianists who had been treated to a dinner in the back yard. He said he knew about half of the entrants personally.

THE OCCASION for a gathering of the contestants—46 at one event—was to draw for the order of appearance in the preliminaries which begins Monday.

Since officials have decided the contestants' identities will be known only by them during their performances, the results of the drawing were not made public.

The drawing originally had been scheduled to be conducted after Cliburn arrived, but official reasons have been put forward because of the delay.

The final two contestants to arrive Saturday night were Sergei Prokofiev and Yosif Polik of Korea. Two of the three pianists in Argentina and Daniel Bernstein of Florida—failed to register.

A FORMAL DINNER sponsored by the Fort Worth Piano Forum at the Woman's Club, 154 Pennsylvania, 7 p.m. Sunday will afford the only time for contestants and jury members to be together during the event.

Van Cliburn and his parents will attend the function along with Mayor John Paul and Congressman John Wright. Linda Loebs will entertain with a rendition of 'Goin' to Know You' in four languages.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gaskill of 1300 Washington, Jr., will be hosts at a cocktail party to precede the dinner.