Russian Pianist Here Says US, Soviet Culture Similar

BY MIKE MILLIGAN

Fresh from holding an audience in rapt attention while he performed, Mikhail Voskresenski, one of four Russians competing in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition commented that he thinks people are the same the world over. 

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The 27-year-old Moscovite, who began playing the piano at age four under the tutorage of his mother, said he thought American culture wasn’t too different from Russia’s.

Voskresenski, when asked his opinion of American music, said he appreciated jazz, but wasn’t really acquainted with popular U.S. music.

This is his first visit to the United States although he toured South America in 1957. He is staying at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wilson of 4008 Edge Hill in Fort Worth. He said that the customs and habits of America have presented no problems or strangeness to him.

Voskresenski studied at the Moscow Conservatory of Music for a number of years, without the slightest cost since the Soviet government subsidizes such studies through grants.

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When queried about Texas food, he said it was good, not too different from European cuisine. Pulling at his collar, though, he said that our climate was considerably warmer.

Nikolai Petrov, at 19 youngest member of the Russian group of two men and two women, agreed there weren’t many differences in the habits of the two countries, and that the customs of the American home he is residing in came as no surprise to him.

He is staying with Mr. and Mrs. Ted Weiner of 4908 Westridge.

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Questioned about American automobiles, he said they are “very beautiful, but too big.”

Petrov regretted that the press of his practice schedule hasn’t permitted him to sightsee around Fort Worth, or view an American television program.

All members of the Russian group will return to Moscow immediately after the conclusion of the competition.