





In honor of  
His Excellency  
The President of the Republic of Zambia  
and Mrs. Kaunda

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Saturday, April 19, 1975



JAMES TOCCO was the first American pianist to win the Munich International Piano Competition in September of 1973. He was born in Detroit, the thirteenth child of Sicilian immigrants. His parents, both great opera lovers, encouraged his piano studies from early childhood, and he was soon winning prizes and scholarships, including a summer of training at the Salzburg Mozarteum in Austria. Advanced studies under Magda Tagliaferro in Paris and Claudio Arrau in New York followed, and Mr. Tocco soon earned a professional reputation in concert appearances and international competitions.

He garnered medals and awards in Brazil, France, Spain, Germany, Canada, Belgium and the Soviet Union. Mr. Tocco has toured extensively in Europe, the Middle East and America. His schedule for the current season includes five engagements with the Chicago Symphony, and guest soloist appearances with the Bavarian State Orchestra, the Amsterdam Philharmonic and the Residentia Orchestra of The Hague. Mr. Tocco is one of 13 young American pianists chosen to commission a solo piano work to be premiered at the Kennedy Center during the Bicentennial Season.

GILAN AKBAR (Mrs. James Tocco), appears this evening as Assisting Pianist. She and her husband first met in Paris while studying under the same teacher and thus were brought together by music. Miss Akbar, a distinguished Iranian pianist, has frequently performed for the Shah and Empress of Iran.

