





In honor of  
Their Majesties  
The Emperor and Empress of Japan

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Thursday, October 2, 1975



VAN CLIBURN, America's most popular classical pianist, was born in Shreveport, Louisiana. His mother, a talented pianist, taught him music and remained his only instructor until he began studies at Juilliard, from which he graduated with highest honors.

Mr. Cliburn first played in public at the age of four; at twelve, he made his orchestral debut. The following year, he played at Carnegie Hall. Over the next several years, he won a number of prestigious awards, including two scholarships for graduate study and the Edgar M. Leventritt Foundation Award which gave him the privilege of playing with the New York Philharmonic and four other major American orchestras.

In Moscow, Mr. Cliburn won the hearts of the Russian people, the acclaim of critics, and worldwide attention with his stunning victory at the 1958 Tchaikovsky Competition. Overnight offers poured in and his American concert schedule was filled even before he returned home to New York City's first ticker-tape parade for a classical musician.

After his Moscow triumph, his first recording, Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto, became a best seller—the first classical album to sell over a million copies. His many subsequent recordings have also been highly successful.

Mr. Cliburn returned to the Soviet Union in 1960 as part of the Cultural Exchange Program. Enormous crowds gathered to hear him, and his final appearance in Moscow's Sports Palace attracted more than 20,000 people. He also toured the USSR in 1962, 1965, and 1972. His musical genius, personal warmth and enthusiasm have made Mr. Cliburn a goodwill ambassador whenever he has toured overseas.

## PROGRAM

Scherzo in C-sharp minor, Opus 39	Frederic Chopin
"Reflets dans l'eau" (Images, 1st series)	Claude Debussy
"L'Ile joyeuse"	Claude Debussy
"Widmung"	Robert Schumann
Polonaise in A-flat Major, Opus 53	Frederic Chopin



