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# JUNE KOVACH BOWS AT PIANO KEYBOARD

Winner of Naumburg Award Shows Clean-Cut Technique in Town Hall Program

By NOEL STRAUS

June Kovach, Chicago-born pianist, made her New York debut yesterday afternoon in a recital at Town Hall. The youthful musician, who is a student at the University of Southern California, was entitled to the appearance as winner of the Walter Naumburg Musical Award.

For the most part Miss Kovach's playing was clean-cut and transparent. But it failed to disclose sufficient understanding of the music or her exacting list to approach real distinction.

Twice during the recital the interpretations were those of an artist, rather than a student, namely, in Chopin's Waltz in A minor and the same composer's Impromptu in A flat major. The rest of the while Miss Kovach was making serious attempts to conquer works that refused to become genuinely communicative or meaningful under too unimaginative a type of treatment.

In the Chopin Waltz and Impromptu mentioned the performances for the only time had enough color, line and emotional spontaneity to lend them charm and effectiveness. The Waltz had appealing wistfulness, while the Impromptu, with its skilled handling of every ornamental phrase in the central episode, was the highlight of the afternoon's achievement.

Elsewhere, Miss Kovach favored unfortunate fluctuations of tempo, serving no apparent purpose. The tinting at her disposal was decidedly limited, so that she depended on dynamic contrasts almost entirely, consisting predominantly of thin, soft sounds or punched, shallow fortissimi.

Little insight into the character of the eighteenth-century style was exhibited in the Sonata in F major and E major of Scarlatti, and still less in Mozart's Sonata in F major (K. 332), where no trace of the grace, tenderness, subtlety and manifold changes of mood was manifested. Neither the Brahms "Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Handel," Ravel's "Ondine," Chopin's Scherzo in C sharp minor, or Prokofiev's Sonata, No. 3, arose above a talented pupil's level of attainment.

Yet, the fact that Miss Kovach proved able to project the above cited Chopin Waltz and Impromptu with far more than the average degree of pianistic and interpretive art, made one wonder why the rest of her afternoon's work failed remotely to approach this high level.

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June Kovách, a tehetséges fiatal zongoraművésznő, az elmúlt héten hathónapos koncert-körútra indult. Az utra elkísérték szülei, Kovách Albert, az előnyösen ismert Regina és Clifton magyar szalodák társtulajdonosa és ne-

je. June elutazása előtt a University of Southern California hatalmas auditoriumában a mult szerdán nagysikerű hangversenyt adott, melyről az amerikai napilapok zenekritikusai a legnagyobb elismerés hangján emlékeztek meg. A fiatal zongoraművésznő első fellépése Párisban lesz és onnan tovább indulva, minden nagyobb európai városban koncertet ad

