

Paris concerts to have color, variety, quality



Jamaican-born jazz pianist Monty Alexander

is "a phenomenon," Nov. 1, 1980

By CELIA LASKA
News Staff Writer

There's an easier and less expensive way to see a variety of quality entertainment than to go to Dallas, according to Paris Community Concert membership drive co-chairman Patsy Elliot.

"If you go to Dallas to see an orchestra, ballet or musical, you would have to spend \$12 to \$15 on gas, plus your ticket and a meal," she said. "The advantage of the Paris Community Concerts is that you can see the same quality performances here at a lower cost."

The Community Concert in Paris will begin its yearly membership drive Monday for the 1980-81 season. New members will have the opportunity to see at least four concerts in Paris and about 40 others in northeast Texas using their Paris membership.

THE 1980-81 community concert season will include the Paul Kuentz Chamber Orchestra April 10, pianist Monty Alexander Nov. 1, the Young Americans in the Gershwin Festival Jan. 31, 1981 and the Ballet Folclorico Nacional of Mexico April 7, 1981.

Concert memberships are \$14 for adults; \$7 for children and \$35 for a family membership.

"It's really a bargain when you can see about four concerts in Paris and about 40 concerts in northeast Texas for the price of what it might cost you for one ticket in Dallas," Mrs. Elliot said. With the Paris Community Concert membership, not only will the member be able

to see any concerts on the program in the 1980-81 season, but he can also get into any of the community concerts in the northeast Texas area.

"FLOYD CRAMER, who was here last year will appear in Sulphur Springs in October," Mrs. Elliot said. Community Concerts hoped to sell out again this year, Mrs. Elliot said.

The Paris concerts for the 1980-81 season are:

Monty Alexander, Nov. 1:

Jamaica-born Monty Alexander began playing the piano at the age of four and hasn't stopped since. He was called a phenomenon by The New York Post while he played at the distinguished Cafe Carlyle in the Carlyle Hotel in New York.

Jazz pianist Alexander has worked with some of the best musicians of the time including Frank Sinatra, Mill Jackson, Ray Brown, Dizzy Gillespie, Quincy Jones and Senator Eugene Wright.

Alexander began his road to fame at 17 when he was playing at a Miami nightclub. Frank Sinatra and Jilly Rizzo heard him one night and asked him to perform at Rizzo's famous New York nightclub.

Alexander made his London debut in 1975 at the renowned Ronnie Scott Club. A reviewer of the Sunday Times said "it was one of the most unforgettable debuts I remember in 16 years." Alexander returns regularly to Great Britain as well as to Switzerland, France, Germany and other European countries.

Paul Kuentz Chamber Orchestra, April 10
This concert is a bonus for new members, Mrs. Elliot said. It is also a part of the 1979-80 season.

The orchestra, hailing from Paris, France, is considered one of the best chamber orchestras in France according to the Paris Journal Musical Francais. The ensemble of 15 French musicians has been touring the North American Continent since 1961.

The ensemble is known for its extensive repertoire, imaginative programming and joyous playing. It usually consists of seven violins, two violas, two cellos, one double bass plus wind instruments, piano, clavichord or organ.

The repertoire of the orchestra spans three centuries of masterworks for small orchestras -- from the pre-Bach, to Bach, to the classical period and contemporary.

The Gershwin Festival, Jan. 31, 1981:

The celebration of George Gershwin and his music will feature the world renowned Young Americans.

Recognized as one of the most brilliant composers in America, Gershwin and his infectious vitality and personal magnetism are reflected in his timeless music. Among his 20 Broadway musicals are such favorites as "Lady, Be Good," "Oh, Kay," "Funny Face," "Strike up the Band," "Girl Crazy," The Pulitzer Prize-winning "Of Thee I Sing" and his greatest achievement "Porgy and Bess."

Some of Gershwin's countless songs made famous by Hollywood include "Shall We Dance," "Swanee," "How Long Has This Been Going On," "S Wonderful," "I Got Rhythm," "The Man I Love," "Biding' My Time" and "Love is Here to Stay." One of his most famous works is the piano piece "Rhapsody in Blue."

The Young American are not new to the Paris area. They appeared in a Community Concert in 1977 in "The Music Man."

Ballet Folclorico Nacional, April 7, 1981:

The Ballet Folclorico Nacional is hailed as the official ballet troupe of the Mexican national government. It is guaranteed to be one of the most colorful performances this year for Paris.

The Ballet, under the direction of founder Silvia Lozano, is dedicated to the preservation of the Mexican folkloric dance. Since its debut in 1960, the troupe has traveled all over the world giving command performances for heads of states, participating in inauguration, celebration and international festivals and presenting its own concerts.

Highlights of the ballet's career include a six-month tour through seven European countries, a Japanese tour opening the International Festival of Osaka where they won the Gold Medal and the winning of El Corazon De Oro (first prize) at the International Folkloric Contest of Latin America in Ecuador.

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