



TO PERFORM — Lily Tong Chou, concert pianist, will give a recital February 25 (tonight) at First United Methodist Church in Elizabeth City beginning at 8 P.M.

Lily Tong Chou Piano Recital Is Set For Tonight

Lily Tong Chou is the E. F. Hutton of pianists. When she plays - people listen. And if the standing ovation she received following a recital last month during the Women's Artist Series in Edenton is indicative, the people love what they hear.

Feb. 25 (tonight), the concert pianist, who teaches in the Fine Arts Department at College of The Albemarle, will perform for Elizabeth City audiences at the First United Methodist Church. Her recital will begin at 8 o'clock.

She has committed more than 100 pages of music to memory, and spent an untold number of hours in practice for this single performance which features classical and semi-classical works by composers Bach, Beethoven, Debussy, and Schubert. The artist will be the first to admit, though, that she hasn't always shown such dedication to her music, especially during the early years.

Lily, who was born in Shanghai, China and grew up in Hong Kong, began playing piano when she was 5 years old. "I wore out so many teachers," she says. "I had talent, but absolutely no discipline."

She says she also was probably one of the few 5-year-olds who was allowed to pick out her own piano. "It was a beautiful instrument, a British-made Challin."

But at that age, she like neither the instrument nor her Portuguese teacher. "Every Wednesday," she recalls, "I used to run away and hide."

By the time she was 10, she had become more interested in music, but still loathed practice, which her mother insisted upon. She also wanted to play heavy classics, but her hands were still too small to negotiate the range required on the keyboard.

The aversion to practice prevailed, but because she possessed an inordinate abundance of natural talent, Lily managed to develop quite a style of her own. A Korean teacher, Tong Il Han, urged her to enter the concert field.

When she was 19, she won a partial scholarship to study piano in the United States at Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C. It was there, under the tutelage of Laurence Morton, that she finally began to appreciate the rewards of discipline.

Her new attitude started to pay off when she won the Commencement Contest in 1962. A year later, she represented the college in a statewide all-honor student program at Converse College, and in 1964, was first runner-up in a five-state concerto competition.

Following Lily's graduation, cum laude, from BJU, she spent a year studying piano pedagogy at Francis Clark's New School for Music Study in Princeton, N.J. She continued her graduate study for three years with Alton Jones at the Juilliard School, and received her master's degree in 1968.

The path that ultimately led to Elizabeth City and COA was a long one. I required more than a

decade and thousands of miles of travel.

The journey began in 1967, on 122nd Street in New York City between Juilliard and Union Theological Seminary. It was there that she first met a mature, handsome Chinese student who was working toward his master's degree in sacred music at the seminary. Not long after, with music as a common interest, Leland Chou and Lily Tong became husband and wife.

They began their careers as teachers. The first year, Lily taught at Nyack

College, N.Y. Traveling to the Philippines, she served as chairman of the piano department at Silliman University for a four-year term. Then to Taiwan, where she held the same position at Soochow and Tunghai universities.

She returned to this country to study for her doctorate in music performance, which she earned in 1978, from the University of Southern California. In the summer of 1980, the family left Southeast Asia to come back to America.

Moving ever closer to

Elizabeth City, the couple established themselves in Durham, where she taught part-time at Durham High School, and Leland was director of choral music at Trinity United Methodist Church.

Last summer, they visited their homeland, where she played five concerts in Shanghai and Peking, and has been invited to return. Since their arrival in Elizabeth City in late August, they have quietly assumed roles as advocates for cultural expansion in Northeastern North

Carolina. Although she is dedicated to sharing her art from the concert platform, Lily says, "my greatest pride and joy

is in the achievements of my students." She teaches one beginners' course each quarter at COA, and has

Letter To The Editor: Fair Deal

May I make an observation about the controversial VEPCO refund issue? I was not at the council meeting which brought the matter to the public, but I have talked with those who were.

I do not intend my remarks to be an endorsement of Mayor Harrell's position, nor an indictment of those who opposed him. But, I kind of thought the solution passed by the council was a good one. I was a little surprised at the way it enflamed some members of our community.

What I heard were cries of "foul." Those opposed to it said it was not "fair", but I never heard a definition of fair. What ever is fair is usually an interpretation from where you stand.

The way I interpreted what was proposed, i.e., that a flat \$50 be refunded to every residential customer of Edenton utilities, regardless of his annual usage, seemed a very supportable position to me. The families who could one probably best use the money, to be sure would be getting a higher percentage

return, but what's wrong with that? Apparently there are those, however, who don't think that's fair.

Personally, I would have liked to have seen the commercial and industrial customers get their \$50, too. Not because it would make or break them, but just because of the principle. They are customers, too. That is the only way I would deviate from the original proposal.

Whatever the final outcome is, I hope more of the members of our community will feel they have been

dealt with fairly than would have under the initial proposal.

Thanks for listening.

Bill Pierce

Reports For Duty

Marine Pvt. Edward L. Riddick, son of James E. and Dorothy V. Riddick, Route 2, Edenton, has reported for duty with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Camp Lejeune, N. C.

He joined the Marine Corps in July, 1981.


Tournament To Be Held

The Eastern Athletic Conference Midget Boys' Basketball Tournament will be held Feb. 26 and Feb. 27 at Perquimans Union School in Winfall, N.C. Perquimans County Parks and Recreation Dept. is the host. Admission is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children 12 and under. Proceeds go to Perquimans Union School Athletic Fund. Local entries include Edenton, Elizabeth City Boys' Club and Perquimans County. Edenton will face Elizabeth City on Feb. 26 at 8:30 P.M. Come out and support your favorite team.

Sailing Club

The Edenton Sailing Club will meet February 25 (tonight) at 7:30 P.M. in room 119 at Holmes High School. Officers for the club will be elected. These will include a Vice-Commodore for each of the three divisions; Youth (ages 8 to 8th grade), Junior (9th grade to 18 years old), and Senior (18 to 80 years old). Plans for a sailing course to start the first week in March will be discussed along with

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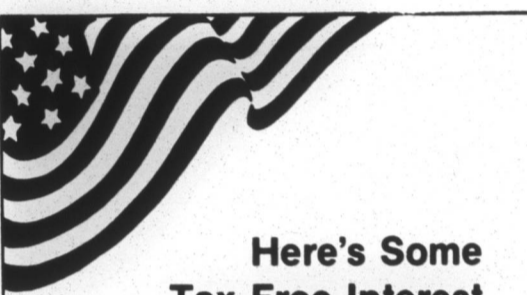
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