

Patrice Johnson Will Be Featured In Concert

By Teresa Simmons
Post Managing Editor

Four years ago Patrice Johnson began her piano lessons. Today she can play such tunes as the entire "Sonatina" by John Field or the "Bach" minuet while at the same time watching the swaying of the trees through the window.

Her piano instructor, Clara Jones, explains the charisma of 12 year-old Patrice: "She has unusual expression and ease. She has a special sensitivity which is both innate and learned."

These are just a few reasons why Ms. Johnson will be featured in a recital 4 p.m. June 2 at the First Baptist Church West, 1801 Oaklawn Rd.

Ms. Johnson is a sixth grader at Myers Park Traditional School. She will be one of two in recital on June 2. Both are 12 years of age and both are the youngest students of Mrs. Jones' to present a recital.

"The students of mine who give recitals are seniors in high school," Mrs. Jones added. Usually a small percentage of these students are featured in the program.

Ms. Johnson is not a bit shy about the fact that her recital is approaching. She also plays the clarinet in the school band; she has been the guest artist in a Hidden Valley Optimist Club Banquet; and she has received a certificate of Award from the South Carolina State College Charlotte Alumni Talent Program where she placed third in a competition of all ages.

In addition Ms. Johnson has for the past four years, continuously achieved a "superior" rating (the highest rating possible) in the National and International Piano Auditions. She also attends Mt. Carmel Baptist Church where Rev. Leon Riddick pastors.

"I practice my piano each day," Ms. Johnson conveyed. Her diligence and discipline were two factors in aiding her to memorize 15 pieces for the International Piano Audi-



Patrice Johnson
.....Fingers of magic

tions and the moving pieces selected for the recital.

According to Mrs. Jones, it takes more than raw talent to reach the point of perfection. "It's five percent talent and 95 percent work."

Family support has also been instrumental in Ms. Johnson's case. She is encouraged by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald

Johnson. She has one sister Tania.

Ms. Johnson would like to become a teacher or lawyer. She finds playing the piano a pleasant pastime. Listening to her play, however, is more than a pleasant array of notes. Her expression can lift the notes into a bouquet which flowers into a crescendo of enthusiasm.

Scholarship Applications

Applications for scholarship assistance to Spirit Square summer classes are being accepted until 5 P.M. on May 30. For more information or a scholarship application, call Elaine Houser at 372-9664. Selection is based on financial need, talent and interest.

Spirit Square's summer class term begins June 11. Classes and workshops at the arts center are taught by professional artists. Subjects offered this summer include dance, theater, clay, music, drawing, painting, photography, weaving and print-making.

Scholarships are awarded each term; during the winter-spring term, Feb. 6 - May 19, 22 students received over \$1,700 in scholarship funds.

The Spirit Square Auxiliary is the center's primary source of scholarship funds, which are donated from the proceeds of the group's annual fall fashion show. The Auxiliary has contributed \$4,000 towards scholarship funds since the program was established in 1982.

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The Wilson Heights Gospel Singers beautifully praised God in song at their recent concert. The theme for this annual event, held at Wilson Heights Church of God, was "Praise Him". "Choosing a theme for the concert is not easy," remarked Choir president Rosetta Moss, "But it becomes easier when we think what God means to us all." Choir members are: (Top row, left to right)

Roger Smith, Gail Feaster, Dot Daniels, Margaret Spears and Omega Autry. Middle row (left to right) Jeanetta Maxwell, Doris Spears and Lula Hartgrove. Bottom row (left to right) Rev. Cary Maxwell, Jennifer Johnson, Patricia Davis, Rosetta Moss, Priscilla Threath, Bessie Davis and James Threath.

Lieberman Elected To Post

Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Commission member Gerald "Gerry" Lieberman has been elected to a three-year term on the Sierra Club National Board of Directors.

The 15-member board sets priorities and policies for the organization's 350,000 members, 200 employees, and annual budget of \$21 million. Lieberman, president of the George B. and G. Lieberman Co., has served as chairman of the Joseph LeConte Chapter of Sierra Club. His involvement with Sierra Club began in the local 850-member Central Piedmont Chapter. His special areas of interest include world population growth, the nationwide disappearance of open space and habitat areas, and the decline of the nation's water and air resources. Locally, he has focused his concerns on the preservation of wilderness areas and the proper disposal of hazardous waste.

Lieberman is in the third year of service on the County Parks and Recreation Commission. As a parks commissioner, he has served on these committees: Budget Committee, Five-Year Short-Range Park Plan Committee, Nominating Committee, Committee to Review Park Bond Progress, and the Swim Committee.

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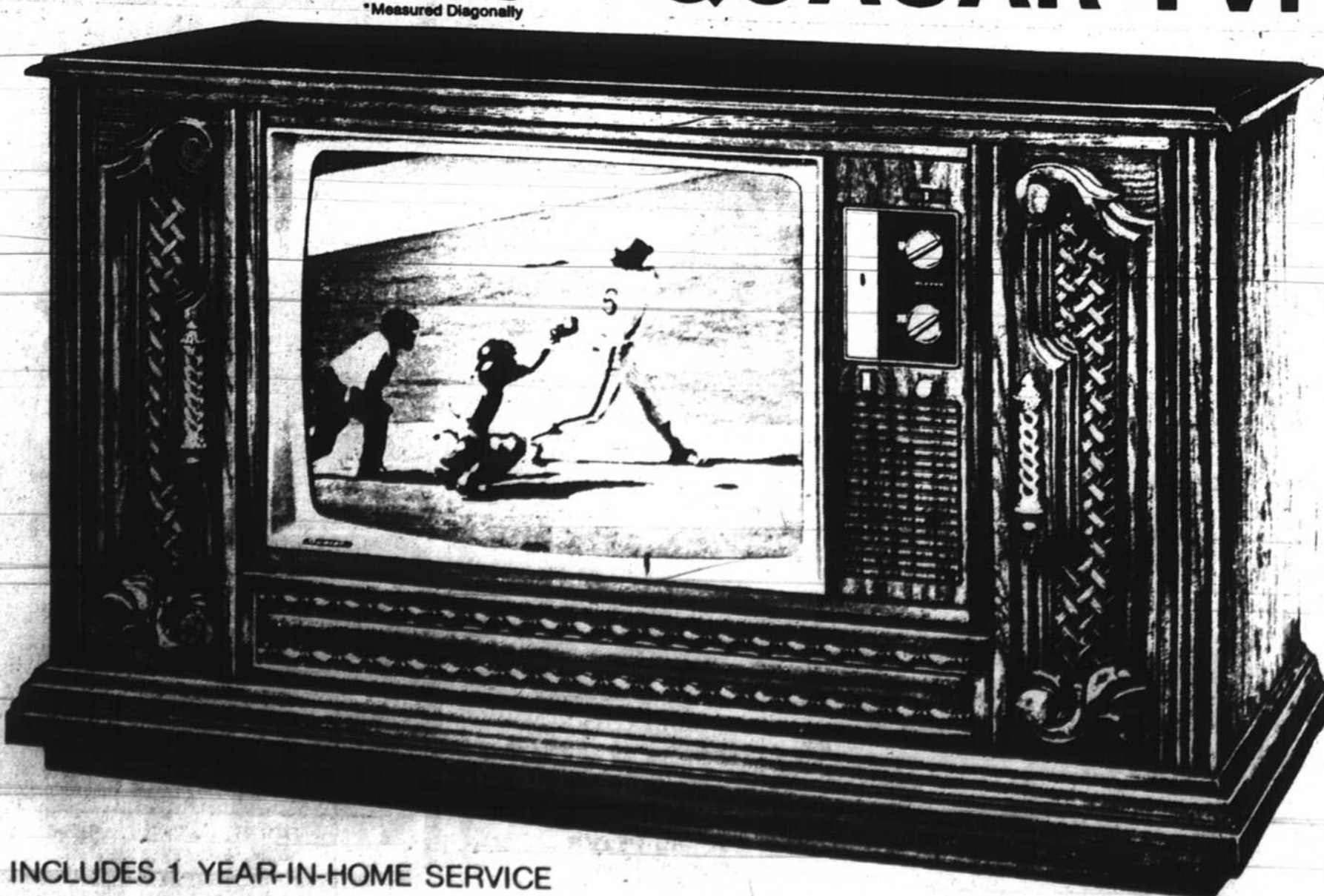
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