

Pianist Easley Blackwood set for performance

October 9, 1968

Pianist Easley Blackwood, who, at the age of 14, appeared as a soloist with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, will be presented by the Committee for Arts and Lectures, University of California, San Diego, in a performance set for Friday, October 18, in Sherwood Hall, La Jolla, at 8:30 p.m.

No stranger to standing ovations, Blackwood has charmed and astounded his audiences with faultless piano technique as well as sensitive interpretation.

Shortly after appearing with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, his interest turned to composition, and he spent three summers at the Berkshire Music Center under the tutelage of Olivier Messiaen while studying privately with Bernhard Heiden. By 1950 his studies were under way with Paul Hindemith at Yale, and in 1954 Blackwood received a Fulbright Grant for study in Paris. He remained there three years as a student of Nadia Boulanger.

His own works are impressive, including three symphonies, two string quartets and various chamber works. His appearance with the program slated for the UCSD campus might best be described in an excerpt from the Los Angeles Times: "The hero triumphant survivor of an incredible musical endurance contest...."

The program for Blackwood's performance at Sherwood Hall will include Second Sonata by Pierre Boulez and Second Sonata "Concord" by Charles Ives.

Reserved seating for the program is \$3.

Blackwood will also give a lecture at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 18, at the Recital Hall, Building 409, Matthews Campus. His topic will be the definition of problems of contemporary literature for the piano. The lecture is free and open to the public.