

Rafael Puyana will present a program of Baroque music for the harpsichord in La Jolla on May 5

April 26, 1962

Rafael Puyana, young musician of South America, will present a program of Baroque music for the harpsichord in La Jolla Saturday night, May 5.

Puyana will appear at Sherwood Hall, Art Center in La Jolla, under the auspices of the University of California's All-University Concert Series, at 8:30 p.m.

He will play an instrument specially built to his specifications by Pleyel of Paris.

The program will include "Sarabande Grave en Rondeau," by Gaspard Le Roux (1660-1710), "Branie Gay," by Jean Baptiste Besard (1567-c.1625), "Tombeau de M. de Blancrocher," by Louis Couperin (c.1626-1661), "Musette de Choisi," by Francois Couperin (1668-1733), "Pavana Dolorosa," by Peter Philips (c.1560-1628), "The King's Hunt," by John Bull, "Concerto in D Minor," by J. S. Bach (1685-1750), "Balli d'Arpicordo (Venice, 1621)," by Giovanni Picchi, and two sonatas by Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757).

Tickets for the event are \$1.00 for students, \$2-50 general admission. They are on sale at the Art Center, at University Extension in downtown San Diego, and on the San Diego campus.

Born in Bogota, Colombia, Puyana developed a special love for the music of the early composers and longed to play it on the harpsichord for which it was written, although he had never heard or seen the instrument.

It was not until he entered the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston that he touched the keys of a harpsichord for the first time, and it was instantly apparent that his was a genuine affinity for the instrument. In 1951 he was introduced to the late Mme. Wanda Landowska, and after hearing him play the great lady accepted him as a student. For six years he lived next door to his teacher in Lakeville, Conn., working at his instrument and at the same time taking a degree at the Hartt College of Music in Hartford.

In April 1957 Puyana made his New York debut in Town Hall, which turned out to be one of the most exciting musical events of the season. Since then he has toured widely both in the United States and in Europe. In the spring of 1960, he was invited to play before President and Mrs. Eisenhower at a reception given for them by the President of Colombia at the Colombian Embassy in Washington.

During his trips to Europe Puyana visits the great libraries in search of harpsichord masterpieces which have fallen into undeserved oblivion. One of his discoveries is Giovanni Picchi's "Balli d'Arpicordo," which he will play in La Jolla.

Puyana has a special sympathy for the music of the Baroque period, which he considers to be still very much alive with a great deal to communicate to those who will really listen to it. For this reason he particularly decries what he calls "antiquarians' love" for old music which treats it as "quaint," possessing only the bland charm of the antique. He is also interested in contemporary music, in which he finds many affinities with the Baroque; and he believes that the harpsichord belongs among the resources of the contemporary composer, provided always that he has a thorough knowledge of the instrument's peculiar possibilities and limitations.