

# Potpourri

By JULIE CANDLER  
Special Writer

They broke ground for Dorothy Kamp Roosevelt's studio home at exactly the spot where the two Steinway pianos would stand. The handsome contemporary structure at 292 Greenwood, Birmingham, was designed around the idea of sheltering two pianos. Next week the studio would ring with the kind of two-piano music for which it was created.

Stated facing the vivacious, white-haired Mrs. Roosevelt will be her "most favorite pianist in Birmingham," petite and pretty Mrs. Teruko Yamasaki. The two talented musicians will be presenting a concert at 8:30 p.m. Friday, June 19, to benefit the Birmingham Democratic Club and the campaign funds of Democratic candidates.

"WE'RE SELLING 150 tickets and hoping that 10 won't come," says pianist Roosevelt, explaining that only 140 persons can be seated in the high-ceilinged studio living room and 30 more on the stone terrace opening off it.

They played before the capacity audience of 140 at the concert given by the Roosevelt-Yamasaki duo in 1960. That was to help the Kennedy presidential campaign. Another full studio heard the gifted pair in 1962, for the benefit of gubernatorial candidate John B. Swainson.

In January of this year, they began practicing weekly for the concert next Friday. With well-known Mark Wessels as their coach, they are now working in extra rehearsals as the concert hour arrives.

**THIS WEEK** they let Potpourri come to a rehearsal. We stood at the big window and looked past the terrace to the green-covered ravine which rolls upward to become part of the striking beauty of that studio.

We listened while they played a stirring Bach chorale, arranged by coach Wessel for two pianos. Right now, we're back there lapping up that lovely moment again, so don't interrupt.

"I think I started that crescendo too soon, don't you?" asks Mrs. Roosevelt afterward.

"When I start the octaves it says *sempre forte*," so it's big all the way through," replies the warm-voiced Terry Yamasaki.

**TWO MORE FAMOUS** names a two-piano team never had—those of a world-famous architect and two great presidents of the United States.

Mrs. Roosevelt is the widow of the late G. Hall Roosevelt, whose sister was Mrs. Franklin D.

The pair of famous names met about 1951, the year ground was broken for the studio. Terry Yamasaki was a busy wife and mother of three small children—her lovely Carol was just six then. She told Mrs. Roosevelt that she was a pianist, but had played hardly at all for 10 years.

In 1960, after Mrs. Yamasaki had gone back to her music, Mrs. Roosevelt asked her Democratic friend to join her in concert. And that was the beginning of some lovely hours of Mozart, Brahms, Debussy, all for two pianos.

**TRUE TO LATE** Rooseveltian tradition, Dorothy Roosevelt has been an active supporter of the Democratic party. She was once chairman of the Birmingham Democratic Club.

But the concert on the 19th will have a slightly non-partisan flavor. Alongside the two pianists, turning the pages of music for them, will be two unidentified but definitely committed Republicans.

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Joining the staff of the Cranbrook Summer Theatre School for the 1964 season will be Mrs. Paul Geiger, Mary Barton, and Franklin Franklin. Mrs. Geiger, who is a graduate of the University of Michigan, Mrs. Kelly of Northwestern University and Miss Lawson of State.

THEY WILL join 23 other staff members, seven of them alumnae, to staff the theatre school when it opens its season June 22 in the Greek Theatre at Cranbrook. The student body of 100 will range in age from nine through 24. Courses in vocal, violin, dancing, make-up, pantomime, stage technique and directing will be offered at various levels, and the theatre school will produce during the summer about 150 short plays and eight full-length plays.

Mrs. Geiger will have charge of the junior-intermediate divisions, Mrs. Kelly will be dance director and Miss Lawson will be costume director. In general charge of the entire operation will be Carl G. and Annella Wambarger of Cranbrook and William Hollingsworth of the Detroit public school system.

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