



Almost 100 persons turned out for the piano concert by Eugene Flemm Friday night. The concert was part of the dedication ceremonies for the expanded Thomas Library. Photo by "Pete" Nichols

Flemm celebrated library expansion with varied performance January 4

By Cornelia B. Nichols

Eugene Flemm, head of the music department at Middle Georgia College, claimed to be presenting a piano concert in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach, but his interpretation of Brahms' Sonata in F Minor, Op. 5, seemed to delight the audience more than the two Bach compositions that the associate music professor played.

The occasion for the concert was President's Night at Thomas Public Library Friday night, January 4. Before the performance Fort Valley State College President and Mrs. Luther Burse were honorees at a reception at the expanded library.

The two movements of the Brahms number that most pleased this audience were Andante espressivo and the Finale: Allegro moderato ma rubato-Presto. In the latter piece the pianist's fingers literally pranced over the keyboard. The former presentation, which the pianist described as "the one I feel most comfortable with in front of an

audience," conveyed remarkable sensitivity and depth of feeling.

Bach compositions performed included Concerto in the Italian Style and Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue. Beethoven's Sonata in E Major, Op. 109, delighted the audience of close to 100 persons. The third movement of Beethoven's sonata, Gesangvoll, mit innigster Empfindung, almost edged out Brahms' Andante espressivo for first place with the audience.

Flemm paid tribute to the attentiveness of his audience, particularly younger members.

Mentioning the longevity of the Brahms number, the pianist said the youngsters could have "gone to Macon to eat at a good restaurant" in the time required for that performance.

Local musician and critic W. C. Wyatt rated his colleague's performance as "very good...excellent." Wyatt characterized Flemm as "a very good musician."

Friday night's audience seemed to agree wholeheartedly with Wyatt's assessment of the performer and his craftsmanship.