

# the arts of performing

dence, to experience pressure for excellence and bring out the best in himself.

**IN THE EARLY 1930s** a group of New Orleans music teachers formed an association for the purpose of presenting some of their talented students in a series of programs. The students were selected by auditions and performed at evening concerts. Shortly after a period of inactivity during World War II, the group assumed its present name and has sponsored local concerts ever since.

Over the years many talented young people have graced the platform and gone on to pursue musical careers. For example, concert pianist Santiago Rodriguez, who appeared as guest soloist in a recent New Orleans Symphony concert, is a former Junior Philharmonic winner. The majority of the present board members are too modest to say so, but were in fact themselves youthful Junior Philharmonic winners who now are giving back to today's children what they enjoyed and experienced.

The annual spring audition will take place March 19 at Dixon Hall on the Newcomb College campus,

and all children and young persons up to age 25 are invited to contact their music teachers for applications.

The open auditions are not competitions in the usual sense. Judges, usually selected from out of town, with qualified backgrounds in piano, voice, instruments or dance, often look for something special, musically and artistically. For instance, a simple selection performed exquisitely may be chosen over a more technically difficult composition played mechanically.

**WINNERS AND alternates** receive no immediate prize, but instead are invited to appear in concert the following year. Such an invitation requires the student to sustain his level of skill and excellence over an extended period of time . . . as does the career of a professional musician. At the end of each concert season, gold Junior Philharmonic keys are presented and awards given, including a scholarship.

Four free concerts are presented each year and are open to the public. On Feb. 19, several young pianists, violinists, a vocalist and a



**Junior Philharmonic soloist  
Barbra Pearce hits a high note**

trumpeter will entertain along with the New Orleans Symphony Children's Chorus in concert at 10:45 a.m. in Newcomb Chapel. Another concert is scheduled for April 29. Each lasts about an hour and provides a opportunity to introduce young children to concert-going.

—P.A.