



### **A key player**

Pianist Duncan Cumming of Wiscasset, a sophomore music major at Bates College, Lewiston, will play works by Mozart, Brahms, Barber and Chopin Friday at 8 p.m. at the Olin Arts Center Concert

Hall. He is a student of noted concert pianist Frank Glazer. Admission is free. Advance reservations are advised. Call 786-6135.



# Arts and Entertainment

## Student Pianist Has the Key to Success *Duncan Cumming fills the Olin Concert Hall again*

by Mary Lehman  
Arts Editor

When sophomore Duncan Cumming noticed a string was out of tune during his piano recital last Friday night, he calmly paused to ask assistance from John Corrie. The string being fixed, Cumming pounced on the keys again without a breath. His strength and intensity are not only reflected in the sound he produces but in the near full-house audiences he draws at the Olin Concert Hall.

That night, the Olin office had taken reservations for the three-hundred seats in the concert hall, and had a waiting list of fifty when they decided not to take any more names. Although the concert was free, managers decided to take seat reservations because many visitors had been turned away at Cumming's orchestra concert last semester during Parents' Weekend.

Mark Howard, coordinator for the Olin Arts Center, explains that concert attendance varies, and ticket price is usually not a factor. Seasonal and other community cultural offerings do play a part, he says, remembering that almost all Olin Concert Hall events were well attended during the inaugural year of the building.

Howard attributes Cumming's popularity to a mixture of talent and personality, in addition to the reputation of his instructor, pianist and artist in residence, Frank Glazer. "Being Frank Glazer's student carries a certain amount of prestige because

of Mr. Glazer's international fame as a concert pianist," Howard commented.

Once a teacher at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, Glazer came to his wife's native

done. I've learned 'the life'; we'll talk sometimes for hours before a lesson."

Cumming added that Glazer still performs: "He's a generous man so he would teach; but like he says, you never stop playing. . . he can't



Sophomore Duncan Cumming is a student of visiting artist in residence and internationally-known concert pianist Frank Glazer. *News Bureau photo.*

Maine to retire. Cumming met Glazer at a summer program held at Bates in 1986, when he was a senior in high school. (Cumming himself is from nearby Wiscasset, another reason why his performances are so popular in Lewiston.) He then decided to take two years off to study with Glazer and to make up for lost practices. "Mr. Glazer always said that one should apprentice one's self to an artist," Cumming said, "which I think I've

stop because people keep calling and he doesn't say no very well."

Howard also praised Glazer, explaining that members of the music faculty who are "connected to the great music schools," knew of Glazer's reputation and were pleased that he was teaching at Bates. "He comes from the traditional school of performing classics. . . Duncan performs in that same style. . . (in a) very impressive manner for his age."

Howard attributes Cumming's popularity also to these traditional programs, and to Cumming's ability to perform them. "I think the student body as a whole is excited that one in their midst has such a wonderful talent." Howard also suggested that Cumming's personality contributes to concert attendance: "He shares his gifts with others. . . I think that's what the connection is between Duncan and the community."

Cumming explained that his programs have become more and more difficult, "and next year and the year after it will continue that way. . . (Glazer) plans a great program, that's no exception in his life." Cumming has performed solo recitals and orchestra concerts, and says he enjoys both equally.

Cumming will continue to study with Glazer, and says he will depend on him for advice about continuing his music studies at a conservatory after graduation. "I've basically invested everything in Mr. Glazer. He explained that being at a liberal arts college, "keeps me open to other things if I decide, or it is decided for me, not to play. (I will) wait for Mr. Glazer to decide for me."

Cumming added that his parents also know Mr. Glazer, and are happy with his decision to attend Bates. "My parents were the ones who encouraged me to go to the summer program where I met Mr. Glazer," he said. "My parents got me started and kept me going."



DUNCAN CUMMING '93  
pianist

Friday, March 8, 1991  
Olin Arts Center Concert Hall  
8:00 P.M.

*free admission by reservation only*