

MAY 29, 1975

Pool report on Betty Ford and Queen Fabiola at the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition.

Mrs. Ford and Queen Fabiola attended one of the final sessions of the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition. Earlier Queen Fabiola had hosted a private dinner at Laeken Palace for Mrs. Ford and the wives of some of the other heads of state.

Mrs. Ford was wearing pink silk jersey, floor length gown with a rinestone collar and belt and a white fur cape. Queen Fabiola wore a floor length gold cloth gown with a purple cape embroidered with gold. Both carried bouquets of orchids. They were met at the door of the Royal Box at the Palais des Beaux Arts by Count Rene Boel and Mrs. Leonard K. Firestone, wife of the U. S. Ambassador to Belgium. They sat in the Royal Box which was decked with red, white and blue flowers to watch the concert. Among their party was Princess Paola of Belgium.

Tonight's performers were the Russian pianist Sergei Iuchkevitch and the American Larry Graham. They both played a new concerto by Jef Maes as well as two other pieces--one chosen by the jury and one by the performer.

The orchester leader was an American, Irwin Hoffman. The Queen and Mrs. Ford smiled and chatted together between the pieces.

Ruth Gruber, UPI
Sara Wright, Brussels Times

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