

For immediate release
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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford have invited pianist James Tocco to entertain at the White House April 19, following the black-tie dinner honoring the President and Mrs. Kenneth Kaunda of the Republic of Zambia.

The 30-year-old classical pianist made his debut in New York in November, 1972, and went on to win first prize in the International Piano Competition of the Americas in Rio De Janeiro and first prize in the piano competition of the Munich International Competition. In the 2 1/2 years since his debut, he has won ten major awards in competitions.

This season, Tocco performs five times with the Chicago Symphony and once with the Detroit Symphony. Also on his schedule are numerous recitals, including one at New York's Frick Collection and one at Tully Hall in New York.

Last season, Tocco undertook an extensive tour of North and South America, Europe and the Far East, playing in cities as diverse as Calcutta, New Delhi, Moscow, Mannheim, The Hague, Caracas and Washington, D.C. (at Wolf Trap Farm with the National Symphony).

Tocco was born in Detroit, one of 13 children of Sicilian immigrant parents with a great love of the opera. He began winning prizes as a young pianist in Detroit, one of which carried a scholarship for a summer of study at the Salzburg Mozarteum.

In Salzburg, Tocco studied with Magda Tagliaferro, who invited him to continue his study with her in Paris on a scholarship from the French government. He also studied with Claudio Arrau in New York. Tocco has recorded all the Chopin Preludes on an album released in 1973.

He will play Chopin and the music of American composers in his White House performance.

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