

*The XIIIth Santander  
International  
Piano Competition*

THE COMPETITION  
IN ITS TWENTY-FIFTH YEARS

*I*n 1997 the World Federation of Music Competitions celebrates its fortieth anniversary. When created in 1957, it had thirteen competitions, now it has 103 in addition to four international bodies as associate members. Almost a quarter of these competitions are dedicated to the piano, a musical instrument which no other has either been able to supplant or to lessen its obvious leadership in the history of music.

With this edition, the Santander International Piano Competition celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary. We are doing everything possible to make sure it will be a memorable event; namely, by having a highly distinguished jury, by the awarding of valuable prizes and by the quality of the guest groups: the Ysaÿe Quartet for Chamber Music, the Moscow Virtuosi, with their chief conductor, Vladimir Spivakov, for the concert with chamber orchestra, and the Dresden Philharmonic, conducted by Víctor Pablo Pérez, for the symphony concert.

Apart from its policy of considering the competitors as true artists, there are many other things that make the Santander International Piano Competition stand out from others of its kind. While in some cities the quality of its musical life led to the birth of competitions, in the capital of Cantabria (Santander) it is the