Symphony sets concert today

Under the direction of Maestro John Shenaut and featuring guest soloist Teddi Joelson, the Acadiana Symphony will present a concert this afternoon at 3 p.m. at the Lafayette Municipal Auditorium.

Joelson will perform the "Piano Concerto No. 2" by Sergei Rachmaninoff and Mozart's "Piano Concerto in A Major, K. 414".

He has performed these pieces previously with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Cologne Chamber Orchestra, the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra and many other orchestras in the United States. He is currently in preparation to record the complete Mozart concertos with the English Chamber Orchestra.

Joelson was catapulted into the limelight by a performance of Prokofiev's "Second Concerto", with Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1954 at the age of 21. He was hailed as a young Horowitz and compared to the late William Kapell and Andre Watts.

He toured with Arthur Fiedler and the Houston Symphony and then toured with the Cologne Chamber Orchestra. He has been a guest artist with the St. Louis Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony and the Rochester Philharmonic.

Eugene Ormandy has said that Joelson has that "rare magic of communciation with an audience."

Also on the program will be the "Semiramide" overture by Rossini, with Shenaut, conductor emeritus of the Shreveport Symphony conducting.

During his three decades with the Shreveport Symphony, his career simultaneously embraced orchestral concerts, operas and ballet. Soloists under his direction have included Van Cliburn, Philippe Entremont, Loren Holland, Byron Janis and Robert Merrill.

The Acadiana Symphony is composed of 65 area musicians and serves over 500,000 listeners in Acadiana.

Tickets for today's concert are still available at the door prior to today's performance.