

Meet your Treemont neighbors — June and Roberto Eyzaguirre

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In the mid-1940s, a young woman named June Gallaher left her home in Huntington, W. Va., to go to New York to study opera at the Juilliard School of Music. She found lodging in the International House, a haven for students in Manhattan, and at a dance caught the eye of a young concert pianist.

Roberto Eyzaguirre had come to New York from his native Peru to study with Claudio Arrau, one of the great pianists of the 20th century.

Attracted by Eyzaguirre's good looks and prodigious talent, Gallaher was smitten, and they were married within a year.

Their 1948 wedding in St. Paul's Chapel at Columbia University was an international affair: The handsome Peruvian

*"Only in New York
... and only in the
1950s."*

June Gallaher Eyzaguirre

pianist and his beautiful American bride, joined in marriage by the Rev. Shunji Nishi, Japanese Christian clergyman. They rented an apartment on Manhattan's west side and continued their studies.

Eyzaguirre played concerts at Carnegie Hall and Town Hall, and received rave reviews from those toughest of judges — the New York music critics.

Meanwhile Gallaher, along with a few other vocal students at Juilliard, had formed a little opera company (each one investing \$25) that performed in the courtyard of a Man-



COURTESY OF TREEMONT

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hattan church.

In recognition of the refreshments they sold at intermission, they called the group "Lemonade Opera." A "New York Times" music critic took notice

with a favorable review.

"Only in New York," Gallaher said, then adding, "and only in the 1950s."

During those ultra-busy days of concert tours Eyzaguirre continued his studies, and when the days of travelling and concerts became too grueling he moved into the halls of academia.

Having a bachelor's in music from National Conservatory of Music in Lima, Peru, and a master's in music in piano, plus a Ph.D. in historical musicology from the University of Miami in Florida, he traveled to Texas to teach at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, while he completed work on his dissertation.

Inspired by the opportunity to invest in promising young musicians, Eyzaguirre went to Houston Bap-



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June and Roberto Eyzaguirre met at a dance while attending the Juilliard School of Music. She was studying opera and he was studying concert piano. After retiring from the road, Roberto put his musical education to work teaching at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville.

tist University, and Houston became his home base of operations as he continued to perform and teach on campus and privately, as well as giving master

classes internationally. The couple retired and moved to Treemont this year.

Lols McCall, Treemont Tattler