

JOHN NAUMAN
Pianist

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New Yorker wins key competition

Four top honors at renowned piano contest

By BRUCE FESSIER
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PALM DESERT — William John Nauman, a burly New Yorker who looks more like a college athlete than a concert pianist, took top honors Saturday at the finale of the 11th Annual Joanna Hodges Piano Conference and Competition at the

McCallum Theatre.

Nauman, 26, won four performance awards, including the top prize of an appearance with the Academy of London Orchestra on the American Artists Series in London during the 1989-90 season.

Nauman gave a sensational performance of Franz Liszt's "Taratula" Saturday after being awarded a recital at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Holland next year. The crowd of about 700 people gave Nauman a standing ovation.

Just as impressive, however, was his ability to return moments later to play Mozart's E flat major Con-

certo after receiving the London Award.

Nauman expressed the purist classicism of the gentle Mozart with feather-like fingers that literally caressed the keyboard.