

# Rachmaninoff to Appear

## Famed Pianist Will Play in Two Concerts

By Claudia Cassidy.

Sergei Rachmaninoff, whose recital at Orchestra hall earlier in the season was a revelation in the resources of the piano, returns to appear with the Chicago Symphony orchestra under the direction of Hans Lange at the pair of concerts Thursday night and Friday afternoon. He will play Beethoven's Concerto for Piano, No. 1, C major, and his own Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini—precisely what he played with the late Frederick Stock at a Tuesday afternoon concert two years ago in celebration of the orchestra's golden jubilee. He also conducted a program of his own music at the midweek concert that season and returned last year to play his fourth piano concerto on another Rachmaninoff program.

The saturnine Russian, with the Mephistophelean twinkle, the hooded eyes and the crooked cap of unchanging hair, will be 70 years old April 1. Yet the man is a legend in his own time, for in that time he represents an older, more leisurely, musically more romantic age.



Sergei Rachmaninoff.

Now an American citizen, he was born on a Russian estate near Novgorod and was only a boy when that estate was relatively impoverished by the liberation of the serfs. Now reliably quoted by Variety as tops at the American boxoffice, he was befriended by Tchaikowsky whom he idolized.

These seem fairly fabulous extremes in fact as in time, but nothing about the Rachmaninoff career has been prosaic. When he was 20 he wrote the Prelude in C-sharp minor, which 50 years later he plays under pressure, smiling wryly in defeat when a doggedly determined audience refuses to go home without it. That prelude swept the world after it was introduced at a London concert by his virtuoso cousin, Alexander Siloti, and one of the results was London's invitation to the composer to conduct some of his own music.

The famous slump into depression and inactivity came after the Russian failure of his first symphony. The even more famous recovery came with the second symphony, one of the masterpieces of the Stock repertory long beloved in Chicago. This was composed at Dresden after an operatic interlude in Moscow, and it was about this time that Rachmaninoff began, but never completed, an opera based on Maeterlinck's "Monna Vanna."

He came to the United States in 1909, scoring the first of many triumphs as composer, pianist, and conductor. He was several times offered the post as conductor of the Boston orchestra. In 1917, at Christmas, he found the Russia of revolution too inimical and slipped over the border, never to return. In 1921 he bought an estate on Lake Lacerne, and it was there that he went in the spring of 1934, cutting short a tour, to com-

## "GIRL WITH ENA



Irina Baronova as Coppelia or the Girl with the Enchanted Shoe. She will dance the role during Ballet Troupe performances opening at the Civic Opera house, Feb. 24. Simon Semanoff has turned the version into one act divided

...poss the Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, the most vital of his works for piano and orchestra since the glittering second and third concertos. His small estate there is directly across the lake from Trubachan, the retreat where Wagner finished "Die Meistersinger" and "Siegfried," and where he often was visited by Nietzsche, whose writings inspired the Strauss tone poems. Perhaps genius was in the air.

Mr. Rachmaninoff will appear Thursday at 8:15 and Friday at 2:15 in this program:

- Overture, "Leonore," No. 3.....Beethoven
- Concerto for Piano, No. 1, C major.....
- Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis.....Beethoven
- for double string orchestra.....Williams
- Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini.....Rachmaninoff

Solist at the Tuesday afternoon concert, also under Mr. Lange's direction, is Robert Quick, assistant concertmaster. Mr. Quick is an American who at 25 was concertmaster of the Seattle Symphony orchestra and later held the same post with the Kansas City Philharmonic. Wherever he went the Chicago Symphony orchestra invariably recalled him to Orchestra hall. Mr. Quick will play the Glazounoff concerto for violin in this program, starting at 2:15:

- Overture, "Finnal's Cave".....
- Symphony, D major (Kochel 385).....Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
- Concerto for violin, A minor.....Glazounoff
- Five Symphonic Studies, based on the American folk song, "B-A-N-O".....
- Orchestral fragments, second series, from "Daphnis and Chloe".....Ravel

Mr. Lange also conducts Saturday night's popular concert, which features Beethoven's Symphony No. 2, D major, with Wagner's Overture to "The Flying Dutchman," Arensky's variations on a theme by Tchaikowsky, Massenet's ballet music from "Le Cid" and Rossini's Overture to "William Tell."