

# RACHMANINOFF HERO WITH N.Y. SYMPHONY

Pianist Scores in Own Concerto; Dobrowen in Debut as Conductor

By LINTON MARTIN

Serge Rachmaninoff was quite the conquering and commanding hero at the New York Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra concert in the Academy last night, despite the fact that the occasion marked the appearance of a conductor wholly unfamiliar to Philadelphia.

The grim, gaunt, great Russian pianist-composer, appearing as soloist in his own Third Piano Concerto, substantially overshadowed the debut here as guest conductor of Issay Dobrowen, who is to appear in a similar capacity with the Philadelphia Orchestra for seven weeks starting January 13, and whose qualities consequently hold particular interest for audiences here.

Oddly enough, Rachmaninoff had not previously played his own Third Concerto here, although, contrary to erroneous advance information, the performance last night was not its first in Philadelphia, since the leonic and lovely work enlisted the services as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra of Vladimir Horowitz during the season 1927-28 and of Alfred Cortot during the season of 1919-20. Rachmaninoff himself has been heard here in his own First, Second and Fourth Concertos, and more or less obscure pianists have tackled the Rachmaninoff Second. But the performance of the Rachmaninoff Third by the composer himself last night was a revelation of its nobility and beauty, its depth of feeling and spacious design, and it was played with a spontaneity of inspiration and individuality of utterance that gave it immediate freshness of effect.

### Soloist Dominates Performance

Rachmaninoff dominated the entire performance of this concerto, orchestrally as well as individually as soloist. Like his other piano concertos, this work is superbly symphonic in its development and handling of rich orchestral resources, which are never relegated to the position of merely subordinate background, but are as emotionally eloquent and at times even more colorful than the solo instrument. The whole emphasis of tone and time in the persuasive and powerful orchestral score seemed controlled by the soloist last night through his own impressive playing, with a free and flexible rubato, and while his cadenza also revealed afresh his tremendous mastery of the piano, his chief concern was always a matter of musicianship and not primarily virtuosity in the external sense of Horowitz and Cortot in this same opulent work.

That old cliché—"the audience

## Hollywood Draftee



**BENITA HUME**

British motion picture star, whose work in English films has caused her to be drafted by Hollywood producers. She is shown above upon her arrival on the coast for her debut in American pictures.

made up in enthusiasm what it lacked in size"—was never more applicable than last night. Considering Rachmaninoff's initial playing here of his own Third Concerto, and the debut here as guest conductor of Mr. Dobrowen (pronounced Deh-brow-VEY-en), the small house was astonishing. But neither the soloist nor the conductor could complain of any lack of cordiality, for the Russian-born conductor, who leads the San Francisco Symphony regularly, was recalled several times after an uneven and rather uninspired presentation of the Tchaikovsky Fifth Symphony.

Mr. Dobrowen exhibits more eagerness than authority. His conducting of the Tchaikovsky Fifth was at times pedestrian in pace, at other times hurried, and it would be idle to assert that he elicited the utmost response from the orchestra.

### FILE DORRANCE REPLY

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will file an answer in the State Supreme Court tomorrow to the petition of the executors of the estate of John C. Dorrance, deceased, which seeks a reargument in the Appellate Court.

The decision of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court held that Dorrance was domiciled in Pennsylvania at the time of his death and that the Commonwealth was entitled to inheritance taxes of about \$17,000,000. The State of New Jersey is claiming the inheritance taxes on the grounds that Dorrance had his legal home in that State.