

# CONCERT IS GIVEN FOR HELEN KELLER

Philadelphia Orchestra Plays  
Here at Fete of American  
Foundation for Blind

## RACHMANINOFF IS HEARD

Audience at Carnegie Hall Gives  
Ovation to Teacher—Event  
Part of Jubilee Year

Helen Keller, celebrated blind and deaf teacher of the blind, was honored last night in Carnegie Hall at a special concert given under the auspices of the American Foundation for the Blind by the Philadelphia Orchestra under Eugene Ormandy, with Sergei Rachmaninoff, Russian pianist, as soloist. The occasion was the first of a series of public events that will mark the Helen Keller Tribute Year, which began in March, fifty years after the meeting of Miss Keller with her famous teacher, Mrs. Anne Sullivan Macy, who died last Fall.

The nation-wide tribute to Miss Keller and her late teacher is being sponsored by the foundation "in recognition of Helen Keller's courage, achievements and character, and to further the cause of the blind to which she has devoted herself so unstintingly." Miss Keller is the foundation's counselor to the bureau of national and international relations. Proceeds of the concert will be contributed to the foundation and to the pension fund of the Philadelphia Orchestra. A fund of \$2,000,000 is being sought this year by the foundation to perpetuate the work Miss Keller has done for her fellow-blind.

During the intermission of the concert, Dr. John H. Finley introduced Miss Keller in a brief address, characterizing her as one who accomplished a "miracle of human communication such as no one else has ever done." He hailed the jubilee of that day when Miss Keller began her long and close friendship with Mrs. Macy, who, he said, "literally spelled the world" into the mind of her pupil.

At the appearance of Miss Keller, who was accompanied by her companion and interpreter, Miss Polly Thompson, audience and orchestra arose, greeting both with prolonged applause. Miss Keller expressed her profound happiness at "this marvelous occasion." She thanked the participating musicians and the near-capacity audience for their help in lifting her fellow-blind to higher levels of achievement. This, she said, would be a beautiful memory of great effort to encourage "those who walk among the shadows. For this dramatic and significant event the past years have been in preparation."

"Our cause," she said, "is not charity. It is a movement to render possible a new life for the blind, new thoughts to guide them through difficulties." Miss Keller closed her address with a word of tribute to Mrs. Macy and an appeal for public cooperation in the work of the foundation.

The concert began with the Rameau-Cailliet Suite, and Mr. Rachmaninoff's Concerto No. 1 in F sharp minor, the composer at the piano. The soloist was accorded an enthusiastic greeting



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## CONCERT IN HER HONOR

Miss Helen Keller, from a picture made last night in Carnegie Hall.

and, at the conclusion of his performance, an ovation which was cut short only by the orchestra's leaving the stage. The Brahms First Symphony was the last offering of the evening.