

# Sergei Rachmaninoff Denies Rumor He Might Retire

"I Never Discussed My Retirement," Declares Elderly Musician Here



SERGEI V. RACHMANINOFF

Upset by unfounded reports that he was to retire at the end of this season, Sergei V. Rachmaninoff, shortly after his arrival in Boston this morning, denied rumors that he planned to step down from the concert stage this year.

"I never discussed my retirement," said the tall, gaunt man who is generally considered the greatest living creative artist in the musical field. The 66-year-old pianist-conductor-composer declared that he had been misquoted in a Midwestern interview.

He was feeling "nicely" but "very tired" as he relaxed in his suite at the Ritz Carlton this morning after the long, over-night train ride from Detroit where he made his last appearance.

**Agrees to See Newsmen**

Today's brief interview was the first the world-famous Russian has granted since he was incorrectly quoted as saying he would retire. The towering composer, best known for his Prelude in C Sharp Minor, at first refused to see reporters but agreed to pose for photographers.

Then he relented and answered newsmen's questions.

Mr. Rachmaninoff is accompanied by his wife and his traveling manager, Rudolph Heck. Tomorrow, he will give a concert at Symphony Hall, marking the 30th year of his American appearances, which began with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1909.

From here he will go to New York city, where he will begin, Sunday, Nov. 26, to conduct the Philadelphia Orchestra in Carnegie Hall in a cycle of his own works.

Although he is best known for his little Prelude in C Sharp Minor, Rachmaninoff's compositions include four piano concertos, a well known rhapsody for piano and orchestra on a theme of Paganini's, the operas "Aleko" and "Francesca da Rimini," the popular symphonic poem, "The Island of the Dead," three symphonies, and many piano pieces, songs, chamber music and miscellaneous work.

It was revealed today that the great composer has twice been offered the conductorship of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, to succeed Max Fiedler, with whom he made his first American appearance, and to replace Carl Muck. Both times he declined for personal reasons which he did not divulge.