

# Piano concert to feature no pianists

By Howard Reich

**SERGEI RACHMANINOFF** hasn't played Chicago for a while, but he will this weekend—sort of.

The late composer-pianist and other long-gone keyboard artists will be heard in a decidedly offbeat concert beginning at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Pavilion Theater of the Bismarck Hotel, 171 W. Randolph St.

Sponsored by the Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors Association, the evening will feature a concert grand piano performing classical repertoire without the benefit of a piano soloist. Instead, piano rolls made by eminent musicians during the 1920-30s will offer music by Rachmaninoff, Beethoven, Liszt, Chopin, Saint-Saens and others.

Mechanized performances of this kind held great novelty-appeal in the United States before the phonograph became the accepted form of sound reproduction. And to re-create that era, Saturday's concert will feature both solo repertoire and concertos; in the latter, the orchestral accompaniment will be performed by Robert Frisbie leading the American Chamber Symphony.

**THE MAIN** attraction along these lines will be the first public performance of the roll Rachmaninoff made of the first movement of his Second Piano Concerto in C minor.

Sharing the bill will be the musical ghosts of pianists Mischa Levitzki, Carl Friedberg and Leo Ornstein.

And following the concert, at about 10 p.m., piano rolls made by the late Rudolf Ganz will be heard in a recital featuring music of Chopin, Debussy, Liszt and Wagner.

Ganz was an acclaimed piano soloist as well as director of the Chicago Musical College, and the performance will include a duet in which the Ganz piano roll will be accompanied by a live performance by Ganz's nephew, Felix.

Admission to both concerts is \$12, and tickets will be available at the box office. For details, phone 236-7347 or 879-5460.

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