

Five Minutes with a Famous Musician

Sergei Rachmaninoff arrived in Paris yesterday afternoon; he leaves tomorrow for New York. This evening, he is giving a single recital at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées; he will perform his own works—for Sergei Rachmaninoff is not only a famous pianist, he also occupies a prominent place among the composers of our time.

In America, he is being greeted with triumph. Rest assured that if he stayed here, he would receive such enthusiasm.

We saw him last night. Very simply, he told us: “I have just arrived from Vienna, after a grand tour throughout Europe. This is the first time I have given a recital in Paris, but it is not the first time I have been heard here. In 1907, I was on the program for a party organized by Sergei Diaghilev.”

I know your country very well: My daughters live in Paris; I come to see them from time to time. Next April, I will return here to be with them.

Would you like a few quick notes on the great artist's past?

Sergei Rachmaninoff was born in Novgorod on April 1 (March 20, Old Style) 1873. At the age of nine, he entered the Petersburg Conservatory. Three years later, he went to continue his piano studies at the Moscow Conservatory. In 1893, at the age of twenty, he was appointed professor of piano at the Mariinsky Institute in Moscow. Many of his piano works and songs have achieved immense popularity. - DIDIER DAIX

[Translation: Google]