

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF*The composer and pianist*

Beverly Hills, Calif., March 28 (AP).—Sergei V. Rachmaninoff, 69, Russian pianist, conductor and composer, died today at his home here.

His physician, Dr. Alexander Golitzin, said the musician became ill a few weeks ago while on tour in the East. Death was caused by pneumonia, pleurisy and complications.



Sergei
Rachmaninoff

Just last Feb. 1, Rachmaninoff and his wife, Natalie, became American citizens.

The towering Russian symphonist, with his slight stoop and close-cropped gray hair, had been a familiar figure on the concert stage for 45 years. He was one of the greatest living pianists.

Compositions by the musician included the operas "Aleko" and "Francesca da Rimini in C Sharp Minor," piano concertos and quantities of songs, chamber music and miscellaneous works.

At the age of 13 a piano arrangement he made attracted the famed Russian composer Tschai-kowsky, who aided the youth's career.

Made America His Home.

He conducted the Moscow Private Opera at the Imperial Theatre and made many appearances as guest conductor in other countries.

Rachmaninoff's piano technique was extraordinarily accurate, combined with a romantic flair and a tone that was peculiarly his own.

He first came to America in 1909, playing with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Born in Novgorod, April 2, 1873, he was a member of the Russian land-owning class. In 1917 he took up permanent residence in America.