

# Rachmaninoff's Piano Is Handled Carefully

**Concert Grand Is Moved  
From Train With Difficulty—Great Composer  
Would Not Give Interview.**

Sergei Rachmaninoff when on tour keeps away from music. The great composer and virtuoso, who is presenting a concert at Glebe Collegiate this evening, reached Ottawa at 1.10 by the north shore C.P.R. line, but sent his concert grand piano by C.N.R., getting into the city an hour earlier.

Rachmaninoff has seldom given interviews, and when met at Union Station this afternoon, looked at and through a group of waiting newspapermen, and asked that he be excused from questions. He was accompanied by Madame Rachmaninoff and was met at the station by Antonio Tremblay, Ottawa impresario.

Why the great Russian pianist and composer took the north shore line, which halts at almost every hamlet on the Quebec side, when he could have taken a more modern train and reached the Capital upwards of an hour earlier, is a mystery. Possibly it was temperament.

A crew of six freight handlers, directed by a high C.N.R. official, supervised the task of getting the Rachmaninoff piano from the express car to waiting trucks. One of the three living executants whose pianos are supplied gratis and eagerly by the famous firm that manufactures them, he keeps three or four concert grands posted at strategic points on the circuit of his tour, and uses the instrument which is nearest the city where he plays.

The huge piano, strapped in a heavy canvas jacket, buckled on by an intricate system of straps, proved a tricky task for the movers. At first it was too long for the baggage trucks, and then it wobbled when placed diagonally across two of them. Once it nearly toppled over when being shifted to a secure position.

Tickets for the Rachmaninoff concert tonight are scarcer than hen's teeth, with every seat in the hall sold out for weeks in advance.