

## Rachmaninoff Syria Mosque Concert Star

Is Feature Artist With  
Symphony Orchestra  
In Recital

By Donald Steinfirst

Romantic music dominated the scene last night at Syria Mosque when Fritz Reiner and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, assisted by Sergei Rachmaninoff, the great Russian pianist-composer-conductor gave the first of the seventh pair of subscription concerts.

The noted pianist played his 3rd Concerto in D Minor and Dr. Reiner and his men added the Schumann Spring Symphony and Weber's Oberon Overture to form a program which found the orchestra at the very peak of its performance. Little wonder that the large audience gave conductor, orchestra and soloist a long and warm ovation at the conclusion, that was well-earned.

### Symphony 100 Years Old

The Schumann Spring Symphony is 100 years old almost to the very day, and in all that span of years it has remained in the repertory of every symphony orchestra, a model of German romanticism, everlastingly verdant, glowing with refreshing melodiousness, bubbling over with infectious exuberance that overcomes Schumann's supposed defects in orchestral writing. Last night Dr. Reiner led the work with eloquence. The opening andante was poetical, yet played with a lusty abandon. The larghetto, which is one long simple song was given a gracious naivete, the Haydnesque third movement was light and playful and the concluding scherzo, with its rippling little triplet figures was gay and cheerful. Over all was the impression of *gemuetlichkeit* which Schumann never again duplicated in his orchestral music, after this 1st Symphony.

### Rachmaninoff Peer of All

Even at this late date, the art of Sergei Rachmaninoff continues to grow, and admittedly he has no peer in the performance of his own works. The 3rd Concerto which was played last night leans heavily on Tschaikowsky, as is to be expected from any music written in Russia in 1909. It is not as ingratiating as the more familiar 2nd Concerto in C Minor, but it is an imaginative sentimental work, well integrated between orchestra and solo piano and never pedantic nor dull. Rachmaninoff with his unbounded technique, his noble sense of restraint and his innate musicianship produced some lovely effects last night. There is to be remembered his ravishing tone and the flashing colors particularly of the 1st movement and the soft cantabile passage of the slow section. In the finale, there were the rushing triplets with which the pianist and the conductor brought the Concerto to a triumphant conclusion. There must also be mentioned the unimpeachable authority that the composer brought to his work, the complete mastery of his instrument, particularly in this Concerto which tests every last resource of the piano.

To open the concert, Dr. Reiner and his men, particularly the string section, gave a clear-cut, well defined performance of the melodious Weber Overture, another stand-by through the years.

The concert will be repeated tomorrow afternoon at the Mosque.