

# Famous Russian Musician Frowns on Cold Weather

## Sergei Rachmaninoff Denies He plans to Give Up Playing Tours

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Although born at the close of a severe Russian winter, Sergei Rachmaninoff did much complaining about the weather when he arrived here from Denver yesterday. "Your weather is very bad, it is terrible," declared Russia's greatest pianist and composer when he reached the Benson hotel. "I do not like so much cold." Mrs. Rachmaninoff did not complain.

A press delegation met the artist in the hotel lobby. The composer, famous as an interview dodger, looked down on the delegation, frowned, and then, in slow, measured words, announced: "I have not so many words for you, I have no words for you at all; there are too many."

"I was told this is your farewell

tour; that we'll never see you any more," the writer stated.

### Not to Retire

"I have no such thoughts; who told you this is my last trip?" replied the visitor, real snappily for him, Mr. Rachmaninoff usually speaking ponderously. "I have not thought this is my last trip; I may see you many times."

"Are you writing any more compositions with an Edgar Allan Poe motif?" was asked, causing the artist's eyes to brighten.

"Not now, but you know the Philadelphia orchestra just played my symphony, 'The Bells,'" Mr. Rachmaninoff declared. "It is a great pity I did not have Poe in the original. I wrote 'The Bells,' not from the Russian translation, which is very good, but it was translated from the Russian into the German and from the German into the English by an English woman, so there was nothing of Poe left."

### Russians Like Poe

"The Russians like Poe, and their translations are very good. Those I should have used. That

would be all right. It was too bad I did not have the original, for Poe is a great artist, a very great artist. 'The Bells' was played by the Philadelphia orchestra when it gave its concert in New York. I played with that orchestra four times this season. I was very glad that 'The Bells' was again played in America. I should like to do some more things from Poe, but I am not doing them now. Maybe I will."

The composer was asked if he had read Poe's prose.

### Home in Pullman

"Yes, everything by Poe I read," came the quick reply. "His poetry and all his stories. His works are all translated into Russian. Oh, yes, I have composed many things from other poets, mostly Russian poets."

"Where do you make your home now?" was inquired.

"On the train, in the Pullman car," came the answer, proving the stern pianist really has a sense of humor. "I must travel so much in your country. I will sail from New York February 28 and be in England March 3 to start my tour there March 9. My little grandson is waiting for me in Paris to see what I bring him."

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