

## RACHMANINOFF HERE FOR CONCERT: WILL PLAY AT AUDITORIUM

Distinguished Pianist to Give  
Popular Numbers, Includ-  
ing Own Compositions.

BY SUNFLOWER DALY.

Sergei Rachmaninoff, distinguished Russian pianist, reached Shreveport Monday morning from Little Rock, and will appear in concert at the Municipal auditorium Monday evening at 8 o'clock. His coming ushers in a long list of famous artist appearances scheduled for the city by arrangement of Mrs. Frances Otey Allen, local impresario.

And what, of all things, do you suppose the great Rachmaninoff was doing to amuse himself in his suite atop the Washington-Youree when I called to see him at noon? Why, he was playing the piano, of course! He'd been informed there was a football game in Shreveport Saturday—for that's all anybody can talk about—and explained:

"You see, I have good hands, but poor legs; that's why I'm playing the piano."

Rachmaninoff gave me 10 minutes of his time, and I gave him back just about half of it, but in the five minutes spent with him there was quite a lot of interesting conversation—to me. I learned, for instance, that the famous artist is 59. He is tall and straight, and well preserved, and still looks capable of playing good football, instead of fingering a keyboard, if the notion should strike him to do so.

Rachmaninoff has been in this country something more than 14 years, having quit his native Russia two weeks after the bolsheviks took over the government—departed legally, with a perfectly good passport—and hasn't been back since. As he naively remarked: "In this country, you see, men can hold to different opinions, politically, and still be free; in Russia—well, if one doesn't agree with the powers that be, it were better for him to stay away."

The pianist, though, must keep in practice, just as a football player does, and that's why Rachmaninoff has a grand piano in his hotel room everywhere he goes. His last concert was in Little Rock Thursday night, and he will not play again, after Shreveport, until Wednesday evening in Nashville, Tenn. He began his tour this fall on Oct. 18, in Toronto, Canada, and his season will close April 3, 1933, at Madison Square Garden, New York, where he is to play for a charity sponsored by the musical artists of the country.

"At the close of the American concert season, I shall go to Europe for a month, playing in all of the great capitals—except Moscow," said Rachmaninoff.

And then I left him, after giving him some additional facts and opinions about Saturday's big football game—about the little school beating the big fellow, and all that sort of thing. He listened with attentiveness, but it was most evident he was just itching to get back to that piano to complete his daily hour of practice. Monday night he will play for Shreveporters a program of most difficult, yet popular, numbers, including some of his own compositions, for he is composer as well as artist. The Rachmaninoff "Prelude in C Minor" does not appear on the printed program, but will doubtless be heard as an encore.