

## Mechanical Trend In Art Deplored By Rachmaninoff

Only in Germany Is Music  
Still Vital to People as in  
Past, He Declares

By SYDNEY DALTON

Nashville music lovers will have an opportunity tonight of hearing one of the most famous of living musicians, when Rachmaninoff, the celebrated Russian pianist and composer, steps upon the stage of Ryman Auditorium. This unique figure in the world of music links all that is best in musical tradition with the greatest achievements of the modern virtuoso and present-day musicianship.

That his artistic background and tastes reach back into the more golden days, before economic and political chaos overtook the world, is apparent when he speaks of musical conditions of the moment.

"As I travel about the world," he said at his hotel today, "I am struck by the fact that only in Germany, of the European countries, is music as vital a part of the life of the people as it was in past years. People have had to bow before the mechanical tendencies of the day, even in art.

"It hasn't effected the crop of instrumentalists in any way. The world is full of fine pianos and violinists. But on the creative side, music has suffered. Where are the young composers who show signs of carrying on the great traditions of the past? I, for one, don't see them."

Rachmaninoff has lived in New York since the revolution drove him from Russia, and he has become an American citizen and has educated his children in this country.

"America has great possibilities in music," he said, "and it is rapidly developing artistically. I can see a great change in this respect during the last fifteen years. New York has a wonderful audience, like those of Berlin and Paris, and the interest in music and the refining influences of life is increasing all over the United States."

"No I am by no means opposed to sport," the great artist continued, in answer to a question. "Sport and physical activity are essential. But people must learn that they are only a part of life. There are things of the brain and the heart and the soul—cravings that must be satisfied if we are to lead a well rounded life. Nor is the talented artist the only one to be considered. Everybody should be taught to appreciate great art."

Rachmaninoff is almost as famous as a composer as he is as a pianist. There are few, even among pupils, who do not know some of his works, particularly the universally popular Prelude in C Sharp Minor. Those who attend his recital tonight will have an opportunity of hearing some of the great pieces for piano that have come from his pen.