

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS HERE AND AFIELD

New York Premieres of Rachmaninoff and Mason Compositions by Philharmonic
—Stravinsky's 'Mavra' in Philadelphia—Other Items

THE Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra's programs this week will bring the New York première of two compositions—Serge Rachmaninoff's latest work, a "Rhapsodie on a Theme of Paganini" for piano and orchestra, and Daniel Gregory Mason's "Suite After English Folksongs."

Mr. Rachmaninoff, who will himself be the soloist in his new work, has written a set of variations on the Paganini theme which Brahms employed for his piano variations, Op. 35. The composition has been played in Baltimore and Washington. The work was written last Summer.

Mr. Mason's composition was created in the Summer of 1933. It was directed by Hans Kindler at the Virginia Festival last April and by Albert Stoessel at the Worcester Festival in October.

The American première of Stravinsky's opéra bouffe, "Mavra," will take place in the Philadelphia Orchestra's series of lyric presentations at the Academy of Music in that city on Friday and Saturday of this week and on Jan. 1. Alexander Smallens will conduct and the work will be sung in Russian by four Russian artists—Maria Kurenko, Lydia Koretsky, Nadine Fedora and Ivan Ivantsoff. Sergei Soudaikine has designed the sets. The opera, after a tale by Pushkin, was written at the suggestion of Diaghileff and has been performed in Berlin, Paris, Amsterdam and Brussels.

The companion production will be "Hansel and Gretel," with Georgia Standing, Margaret Codd, Kathryn Meisle, Thelma Votipka, Agnes Davis and Joseph Royer, Mr. Smallens conducting.

Eugene Goossens asked his men of the Cincinnati Orchestra at a recent concert to lay aside their

music "in order to show that conductors are not alone in memorizing orchestral works." Goossens then conducted from the printed notes Wagner's "Meistersinger" overture. The orchestra "never missed a note."

Artur Rodzinski and the Cleveland Orchestra staged Verdi's "Otello" for a popular ovation, following their "Walkure" of Wagner. Again Richard Rychtarik designed the scenes. Richard Bonelli won most praise as Iago, with Arnoldo Lindi and Rosa Tentoni in other rôles. Five Cleveland singers were Marie Kraft, Donald Dickson, William Miller, Eugene Loewenthal and Frank Schwemler.

Excerpts from Handel's "Solomon" will be performed by the Schola Cantorum Jan. 9. Hugh Ross finds no record of a New York performance of the work. At the same concert Walton's remarkable "Belshazzar's Feast" and a new work by Nabokoff will be given American premières.

Harold Samuel is giving a week of six Bach concerts, Jan. 7 to 12, at Town Hall, a task which he believes no one else ever attempted. The English pianist himself did so here in 1927 and once before in London.

Arnold Schoenberg's new concerto for 'cello has been brought to this country by Emanuel Feuermann. The Austrian 'cellist makes his début with the Philharmonic on Jan. 2 and 4. Two other orchestras are bidding for the Schoenberg première.

Many musicians have volunteered their services for the Musicians Emergency Fund benefit at the Center Theatre on Jan. 6. In addition to prominent soloists, including Lucrezia Bori, Lotte Lehmann, Hulda Lashanska, Grete Stueck-

gold, Gladys Swarthout, José Iturbi, Giovanni Martinelli and Lauritz Melchior, there will be an orchestra of 150 players, conducted by Bruno Walter, Walter Damrosch, Artur Bodanzky, Fritz Reiner and Werner Janssen.

The New York Visiting Committee of the State Charities Aid will sponsor the next concert of the New York Chamber Music Society at the Plaza on Sunday evening, Jan. 13. Florence Easton, soprano, will be the assisting artist.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra's program this week in Boston will embrace Mendelssohn's "Italian" symphony, Sibelius's Fifth and Szymanowski's Second Violin concerto with Albert Spalding as soloist, Serge Koussevitzky conducting, of course.

Josef Hofmann, who has completed a European concert tour with a series of appearances in Spain, returns to this country Jan. 3 and will begin his American programs in Boston on Jan. 5. His only New York recital is listed for Jan. 19 at Carnegie Hall, when his program will include Scriabin's Sonata in F sharp minor. A Pacific Coast tour will follow after this concert.

Igor Stravinsky, arriving Jan. 6 from France, of which country he has now become a citizen, will be welcomed at an evening reception by the League of Composers next day at the Town Hall Club. Preceding the reception will be a program of Stravinsky's chamber music by the Gordon String Quartet, Olga Averino and Beveridge Webster.

The Boston Symphony and the Cleveland Orchestra, Rosa Ponselle, Lotte Lehmann, Tibbett, Schnabel, Iturbi, Szigeti, the Gordon Quartet and the Don Cossacks are announced in the fifty-sixth concert series of the University Musical Society at Ann Arbor, Mich.

An original operetta, "The Enchanted Forest," has been written by Maurice Baron for the Radio City Music Hall's Christmas stage presentation. Edwina Eustis, Dorothy Miller and Celia Branz will sing the leading rôles.

"Minehaha," an opera by Peter Joseph Engels, is to reopen Oscar Hammerstein's Manhattan Opera House on Jan. 14 with Roy Jarman of Kansas City as the Indian hero of Longfellow's poem and dances by real Indians. The sponsoring committee is headed by Frederick S. Dellenbaugh.

Beatrice Rodick of Brooklyn has won the Ossip Gabrilowitsch scholarship at the New York College of Music with Jacob Weinberg, composer of "The Pioneers." Miss Rodick last year held scholarships with the Madrigal Society and with Arnold Schoenberg.

Nathan Milstein, returning for a sixth American tour, will reappear in a recital at Carnegie Hall on Jan. 16. The young Russian violinist, playing thirty-five engagements in three months, will appear with orchestras in Montreal, St. Louis, Kansas City, Chicago and Minneapolis.

The Roth String Quartet, which sailed for Europe several days ago to begin a tour in Holland, will return for a series of Summer recitals in June.

Dusolina Giannini is to open the Palm Beach musicales, scheduled for three Mondays in February by Georgena Girvin of the former Society of Arts. Others to appear are Josef and Rosina Lhevinne, Doris Kenyon and Efreim Zimbalist.

Feodor Chaliapin is announced to return in mid-January for a tour of twenty engagements arranged by the Musical Art Management from here to the Pacific Coast. The Russian basso is to appear in song recital as soloist with orchestra and in opera.