

### Rachmaninoff Admits Composing Prelude, But He's Sorry He Did It

'That Bells of Moscow  
Thing' Follows Com-  
poser Everywhere.

By Lorena A. Hickok.  
Of course, every composer has to  
make a slip once in his life.

Sergei Rachmaninoff—who many  
musicians declare is the biggest living  
composer and the finest pianist in the  
world today—acknowledges he made his  
slip when he wrote his Prelude in C  
Sharp Minor.

Rachmaninoff arrived in St. Paul  
yesterday morning from Chicago to  
give two concerts. He played in the  
St. Paul Auditorium last night and will  
play in the University Armory, Min-  
neapolis, tonight.

That Prelude in C Sharp Minor—you  
don't call it that, but if you are a movie  
fan, or if you have a phonograph, or  
a daughter taking music lessons, the  
chances are 19 to 1 you know it by  
heart.

"That Bells of Moscow Thing."  
Remember how it goes—"Bom—bom—  
bom." like the tolling of a great bell?  
You probably call it "that bells of Mos-  
cow thing."

There is a legend about it. In the  
days of the old Russian regime, so the  
story goes, the great bells in the Krem-  
lin in Moscow tolled when a political  
prisoner was led out to be shot, or  
hanged, or beheaded, or whatever it was  
they used to do to political prisoners  
in Russia. The prelude is supposed  
to represent the tolling of the bells.

All of which is very pretty and poetic  
—only Mr. Rachmaninoff says it isn't  
so. He says he had no bells in mind  
when he wrote it, and that those big  
crashing chords are just chords—noth-  
ing more.

And he's sorry he wrote it—Mr. Rach-  
maninoff is. Nearly every big artist  
has some semi-popular selection for  
which he is famous—some selection  
which he always has to play or sing be-  
fore he can escape from the concert  
hall. For instance, there is Schumann-  
Heink and her "Rosary," and Fritz  
Kreisler and his "Hymn to the Virgin."

With Rachmaninoff, it's "that bells of  
Moscow thing." And it's doubly hard on  
him, he says, because he wrote it.  
Schumann-Heink, for instance, at least  
has the satisfaction of knowing she  
didn't write "The Rosary."

Face Homely But Fascinating.  
A towering giant, muffled in a big  
brown overcoat, with a huge, pale,  
homely face—a face homely, but fascinat-  
ing, like the face of Abraham Lincoln  
—Rachmaninoff stood in front of an  
elevator in the St. Paul hotel this morn-  
ing and sang his lament about "that  
bells of Moscow thing."

There were difficulties at the start.  
Mr. Rachmaninoff did not care to be  
interviewed.

"My English—it is so bad," he ex-  
plained.  
The reporter turned to one of his  
associates.

"Tell him I want to know about that  
bells of Moscow thing," she said.  
A flicker of interest showed in the  
composer's pale gray eyes. Before the  
associates had time to reply, he broke  
in with his deep, bass voice:

"You mean the Prelude in C sharp  
minor? Yes, I wrote it."  
A melancholy smile flitted across his  
wide mouth.

"I wrote it—but it is not a 'bells  
of Moscow thing.' I never had any  
bells in mind while writing it. I as-  
sure you."  
The reporter must have looked dis-  
appointed.

"I am very sorry," rumbled the big  
voice.  
Sorry I Wrote It.  
"And I am often sorry I wrote it.  
I can never, never escape from a con-  
cert hall without playing it. It pursues  
me everywhere. For a long time, I  
used to try to escape by playing it as  
my last encore, only after I had given  
the audience everything else. But I  
have given up—it now appears on my  
regular program."

"Don't you think it's good music?"  
queried the reporter.  
"It isn't bad," the deep voice rumbled  
again. "Only I have written much bet-  
ter music, which is not appreciated half  
so much. All the time, it is that 'bells  
of Moscow thing' they want. I have  
a feeling that the public comes to my  
concerts only to hear me play that  
one selection—that they sit through the  
rest of the concert just waiting for it."  
"And I have become very tired of it.  
I feel like a little girl who is just  
learning to play and who knows only  
one piece—"Hone, Sweet Home," or  
"The Maiden's Prayer," or something  
like that.

Flattering But Tired.  
"There is only one bit of satisfac-  
tion in it for me—that is that people  
seem to enjoy hearing me play it. They  
have heard it on the phonograph, I sup-  
pose, and in the motion picture the-  
aters, and they want to hear how the  
composer himself plays it. They ap-  
pear to like it—and that is flattering.  
But I have grown very tired of play-  
ing it. Many, many times I wish I  
had never written it. Do you not un-  
derstand, Madame?"

The reporter thought she did—but  
on the other hand there is a girl in  
Minneapolis who remarked the other  
day:

"Gee, I'd be willing to die, if I could  
hear the Minneapolis Symphony or-  
chestra play 'Ain't We Got Fun?' just  
once!"

And there you are!

Police Will Investigate

Car Head Apologizes  
to St. Paul's Mayor  
for Conductor's Act

Hodgson Was Ejected After  
Fare Dispute; Preus and Hal-  
lam Also Have 'Difficulty.'

Outward-bound passengers on inter-  
urban cars making the Fifth street  
loop in St. Paul will not be allowed to  
board the cars before they reach Robert  
street, until November 15.

This was the explanation made to  
Mayor Hodgson at the St. Paul city  
council meeting yesterday by W. W.  
Whiteford, superintendent of the St.  
Paul City Railway company.

Mr. Whiteford made an apology to  
the Mayor for the humiliation and in-  
convenience he had been put to Wed-  
nesday night when he was ejected from  
a car after refusing to pay an extra  
fare to ride the half-block from between  
Minnesota and Robert street, to the in-  
terurban line terminal.

Governor J. A. O. Preus, Judge Oscar  
Hallam of the Minnesota Supreme court  
and Capt. E. H. Slater of the adjutant  
general's office, also experienced diffi-  
culty in boarding street cars, it became  
known yesterday.

Wednesday night when the group  
was waiting for a car, Captain Slater  
said, several cars, bound for Minne-  
apolis, passed without stopping. Fin-  
ally a car, almost empty, came along  
and the motorman brought it to a halt.

The conductor, however, failed to open  
the rear gates. Captain Slater then  
pulled off the trolley, but the conductor  
maintained his ground, and added a se-  
vere "calling."

Judge Hallam indented Captain Sla-  
ter's actions with a hearty "Bully for  
you!" according to Capitol employees.

### \$100,000 Community Pledges Volunteered

Gifts Announced at Preliminary  
Meeting of Loop District  
Solicitors.

Voluntary subscriptions totaling over  
\$100,000 and representing a greater  
amount than the same people gave last  
year, were announced yesterday after-  
noon at the West hotel at a meeting of  
200 loop district solicitors for the Com-  
munity Fund, preparatory to the cam-  
paign which opens Monday.

"You can't smoke as many cigars as  
you did last year, drive the same car,  
enjoy the same comforts of life and  
then cut down first of all on your char-  
ities, if you want to call yourself a  
man," Chairman David N. Winton told  
the assemblage. "When you call on a  
man and he tells you he hasn't made  
money during the past year, remind  
him that there are those who are suf-  
fering actual want because of hard  
times."

One firm which gave \$3,000 last year  
yesterday volunteered the same amount  
for this year despite the fact that it  
actually lost money during the year,  
Mr. Winton said.

Every district in the North division  
and every team captain was represent-  
ed in a meeting yesterday afternoon at  
a meeting at the North Side Commer-  
cial club.

Three district rallies will be held to-  
morrow at 8 p. m., Riverside No. 30 at  
Pillsbury house; Bloomington-Franklin  
No. 29 at the Lutheran Inner Mission,  
528 Sixth street south; Camden No. 11  
and Lowry Avenue No. 12 at the Cam-  
den I.O.O.F. hall.

### Demonstration Will Be Accorded Wilson

Purpose Is to Congratulate For-  
mer President on Recov-  
ery of Health.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Nov. 10.—Plans for a  
nonpartisan demonstration tomorrow at  
the residence of former President Wil-  
son was announced tonight by a com-  
mittee of seven women. Democrats,  
Republicans and Independents, desiring  
to honor the former chief executive,  
were invited to meet near Mr. Wilson's  
home immediately after the Arlington  
exercise. The demonstration, which  
will be entirely informal was declared  
to be intended by its sponsors as a  
method of congratulating Mr. Wilson,  
a wounded soldier, on his return to  
health.

The committee in charge of arrange-  
ments includes Mrs. Clara Sears Tay-  
lor, member of the rent commission of  
the District of Columbia, Mrs. Samuel  
Compera, wife of the president of the  
American Federation of Labor; Mrs.  
Houston Thompson, wife of the chair-  
man of the Federal Trade commission;  
Mrs. Edward P. Costigan whose hus-  
band is member of the tariff commis-  
sion; Mrs. Helen H. Gardner, member  
of the civil service commission, Miss  
Gertrude Van Hoesen, business woman  
of Washington and a Republican and  
Mrs. Kate T. Abrahams a Democrat.

Luther Inner Mission