

# Rachmaninoff, Pianist Extraordinary, Braves Rain on Shopping Trip

Interviewing Sergei Rachmaninoff, famous Russian pianist and composer on matters of international importance in which he no doubt is personally interested, is a difficult feat.

This became quite evident Thursday morning when an effort was made to get him to talk on conditions in Russia. An exile himself from the kingdom of the former czar, Rachmaninoff was more disposed to talk of his art than of matters pertaining to world affairs.

Quiet and unassuming, a typical Russian, he was willing, in fact, to discuss anything except such matters.

Daytonians, however, will have ample opportunity to study the artist from a personal standpoint when he plays at Memorial hall Thursday night in a special concert, for in his playing, especially, is the true feeling of the Russian himself, expressed more deeply and sincerely than words can say.

Attired in his big overcoat and high-top Russian boots and accompanied by his wife, who visits all the cities where he plays with him, Rachmaninoff spent several hours Thursday morning in "window

shopping" about the downtown section of the city. The slippery pavements and the inclement weather held no terrors for either him or his wife, as they tramped about the city at their favorite pastime.

Except for this brief tour of the business section of the city in the morning, the pianist remained within his private car during the day, devoting most of his time to completion of a new composition, in which he is greatly interested and hopeful for success.

Music lovers who attend the concert Thursday night may get an opportunity to hear this composition for the first time in public, Rachmaninoff promising to play it as an encore to the regular program if conditions warranted.

In response to hundreds of requests which have been received by R. D. Smith, concert manager, Rachmaninoff has consented to play the prelude in G minor at the concert.

Rachmaninoff, who speaks English fluently, is a lover of good stories and also appreciates a joke (if it is a good one). His deep quiet voice and matter-of-course actions are representative of his artistic habits.