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# Rachmaninoff, Music Master; World Famed Quartet To Sing; News Notes Of Musical World

By MINNIE MARSHALL

**S**ERGEI RACHMANINOFF, great Russian pianist and composer, will appear in concert at the Fresno High School Auditorium on Friday evening.

When Rachmaninoff seats himself at the piano he proceeds to make his audience forget the performer and everything else in the rapt attention it accords to the chosen music.

Foremost of living musicians, he plays with an apparently absolute mastery of every resource of his art; an art that truly conceals art. It seems futile to speak of technical facility in the case of a performer who has long since forgotten that technical difficulties exist.

Possessing great force and at times playing with crashing power, Rachmaninoff never goes beyond the limit of beauty in musical tone. He does not let speed becloud clearness and distinct articulation.

He is not an interpreter of unyielding objectivity and every now and then there seems to be heard in familiar compositions something never heard before. It is a case of a great musician and a great pianist putting poetry and passion and soaring imagination into his interpretations.

Rachmaninoff, like many of the great composers, first won fame as a soloist. His present tour is of special interest, as it will serve to present more intimately his genius to a great and increasing number of American admirers.

Rachmaninoff is now in his early forties and at the height of his powers. Not only is he regarded as one of the foremost living composers, but his magnificent playing stamps him as a truly great pianist as well. A wonderfully clear and certain technique is at his command and through it he speaks the language of the heart, for Rachmaninoff believes that in music "the heart is all."

The Russian school of music is to-day admittedly the most important and original, and Rachmaninoff has exercised the greatest influence in the building up of that mighty structure.

Of Russian music he says: "The Russian is the greatest musical school to-day. I marvel that Americans do not know more of it, for it has the universal emotional appeal which none can resist. It is regrettable that America does not know more of the Russian operas, for they are as rich and marvelous as anything in modern music, and nowhere in the world are there fuller opportunities for producing new works than in America."

- His program follows:
- Caprice, Air de Ballet, from Alceste ..... Gluck-Saint-Saens
  - Sonata, G Minor ..... Schumann
  - Presto.
  - Andantino.
  - Allegro Marcato.
  - Presto.
  - Scherzo ..... Chopin
  - Etude ..... Chopin
  - Balade ..... Chopin
  - Etude Tableau ..... Rachmaninoff
  - Prelude ..... Rachmaninoff
  - Sonetto del Petrarca ..... Liszt
  - Polonaise ..... Liszt

The opera study section of the Fresno Musical Club will meet at the home of Mrs. B. A. Roed on College Avenue on Wednesday morning, February 18th. The opera Carmen by Bizet will be reviewed with Mrs. L. R. Willson reading the score.

Mrs. Emma Mesow Fitch, contralto, will sing the two well-known arias, Habanera and Seguidilla, with Mrs. Mary Coffee at the piano. Gus Olsen, baritone, will sing the Toreador Song, accompanied by Daniel Popovich and Samuel Hungerford, violinist, will play Carmen's Fantasia, by Sarasate.

The composer of Carmen, to-day one of the most popular and brilliant of all operas, died young and broken-hearted at the apparent failure of his masterpiece. Madame Galli-Marié, who took the title role, was shuffling the cards in the scene in which Carmen forsook her death only a few hours from the time he passed away.

Bizet inherited his talent. His mother was an admirable pianist. His father commenced life as an artisan, but so loved music that he became a professional musician at the age of 25.

At ten, Bizet entered the Paris Conservatoire, took prize after prize and won the Prix de Rome in 1857. In Rome he spent his happiest years. In Rome he dreamed the dreams that never came true during his life time.

With one hand he fought circumstances, with the other hand he held aloft the banner of the ideal.

Bizet was accused on certain occasions of writing to meet popular taste. The wonder is that with all his trials he produced so much great art.

He proved by his Carmen, writing not down, but up to the finest sensibilities of the public that there is art in music.

Few musicians have the varied intellectual interests of Fritz Kreisler, who will play at the Fresno High School Auditorium on March 16th. He has studied medicine and law, is a painter of no mean ability, and gave a year of his life to the study of painting in Paris.

He is a most accomplished linguist, speaking accentless and idiomatic French, Italian, English and Russian, in addition to his native Austrian, and writes also in these languages.

Musically he is one of the greatest violinists of our time, but he is only less great as a pianist. Harold Bauer, the pianist, has said that if Kreisler would devote a year to the piano he would rank among the foremost pianists of the world. In composition, Kreisler has estab-