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Sergei Rachmaninoff



THE sudden death of Rachmaninoff came as a profound shock to his almost countless admirers. Had he lived two more days only, Rachmaninoff would have entered his 70th year and preparations had been completed in many musical centres for honouring his birthday by special concerts of his works.

This great Russian, who was born in Orneg Province of Novgorod in 1873, has been called "the last of the romantics". His music is far more akin to that of Brahms than it is to the National School of Russia in which he studied. He had a fine sense of the orchestra but he undoubtedly excelled as a really great writer for the piano, of which he was a virtuoso. It is fortunate that there are electrical recordings of most of his major works, particularly those in concerto form with the composer as soloist.

His art will continue to live, and those who did not have the privilege of hearing him play will still be able to admire and enjoy his own interpretations in his records.

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