Movies

'Of Men and Music' Stars Great Concert Artists

By ALTON COOK.

"Of Men and Music" is a series of informal visits with some of our greatest concert artists. For an hour and a half or so at the Park Avenue, your gracious hosts are Artur Rubinstein, Nadine Conner, Jan Peerce, Jascha Heifetz and Dmitri Mitropoulos.

Most of the time is devoted, of course, to their music. The programs have been kept light and fairly familiar without ever slipping into the hackneyed or banal.

We come across Rubinstein in a recording studio and with the camera accompany him home. He explains a mural that pictures all the houses he has lived in and then plays a brief concert of Mendelsohn's "Spinning Song," a Chopin Waltz and Polonaise and other works of similar caliber.

Sing for Watchman.

Jan Peerce and Nadine Conner return to the theater to pick up some forgotten music. Touched by the night watchman's devotion to music, they sing for him until plane time. They include arias from "L'Africanna" and "Don Pasquale" and a duet from Lucia.

After a brief visit, with Heifetz and his family, in their California home, the camera follows him through the rigorous training regime in which he prepares for his annual concert tour. We hear several musical fragments and then a Bach Partita and Auer's "Paganini Caprice," among other things.

Pretentious Venture.

The Mitropoulos session is a rehearsal of the New York Philharmonic-Symphony playing the final movement of Liszt's "Faust" symphony. We are permitted to stare into the mobile and highly expressive face of the conductor as he leads the orchestra.

This is the most pretentious venture Hollywood ever has made into concert music. It is a completely successful one—with a special bow due the technicians responsible for the recording.