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Stadium's 25th Opening Draws Crowd of 12,000

By John Briggs

Last evening an audience of 12,000 turned out at Lewisohn Stadium, as the City College music center began its twenty-fifth season of summer entertainment for the musically inclined among our citizens.

As at last year's opening, the conductor was Artur Rodzinski, the soloist Artur Rubinstein, and the orchestra that of the Philharmonic-Symphony. The business of the evening got under way with Weber's "Freischuetz" overture, followed by the Brahms First Symphony and Rachmaninoff's Second Concerto.

New features at the Stadium's silver anniversary debut included dim blue lights and explicit instructions for getting to the nearest air raid shelter. Otherwise the scene was the familiar one which has come to occupy a unique place in the affections of New York concert goers.

In these sorrowful times the sight of 12,000 people gathered anywhere for a purpose other than the repulse of a bloodthirsty opponent is an agreeable one. That this remains a land where free men may assemble peacefully for the purpose of hearing great music stirs one's imagination no less than the excitement of "Opening Night" and the good things promised for the season to come. That neither Mr. Rodzinski nor Mr. Rubinstein is a political jobholder and anyone who does not like them is free to say so stirs one's imagination too, though in a slightly different way.

Last evening as on many similar occasions we recalled a sentence from Artur Schnabel's engaging volume, "Music and the Line of Most Resistance." Mr. Schnabel points out that when a concert is "panned" it may mean only that the reviewer has heard the work in question a couple of dozen times too often. Maybe this was the case last evening; at any rate we found the Brahms rather tedious, and the Weber likewise left us unmoved.

Far otherwise was the concerto, in which Mr. Rubinstein performed with his customary brilliance and with the spontaneity that belied the enormous amount of preparation that must have gone into so finished a performance. Mr. Rubinstein's great charm is in giving the appearance of a man who has just u work in hand and is s over his discovery.

ARTUR RODZINSK the Philharmonic la the season's openi Lewisohn Stadiu

At intermission the H Samuel A. Lewisohn w the audience and introduc Richard C. Patterson, Jr spoke on behalf of the War campaign. The Mayor al to speak, but he had gone ner with the King of Gree was unable to attend.

Tonight's Concert

This evening Mr. Rod leads a concert of Soviet with Pvt. Eugene List, U. as soloist in the Shostak piano concerto. Also sche are the Shostakovitch Fifth phony and Gliere's "Marche F lique." All three are Sta "firsts."