

Washington to Hear European Violin Sensation

Roman Totenberg Ap-
pears Here Nov. 7 as
Concert Soloist. ♦

Roman Totenberg, young Polish violinist, who will soon come to the United States to make his American debut, has been engaged by Dr. Hans Kindler as the soloist at the first Thursday concert of the National Symphony Orchestra on the night of November 7 in Constitution Hall. A figure of increasing importance in European reputation, Totenberg brings with him the indorsement of many critics and the record of seven successful years on the concert stage.

Dr. Kindler heard Totenberg play several years ago, only a few seasons after the young musician had begun his professional career in 1928, and was deeply impressed by his phenomenal skill and his sound and thoughtful musicianship. When he learned that the virtuoso was booked for an American tour, he at once began negotiations to secure him for an early appearance in Washington.

Mrs. Tracy Dows, one of the directors of the Symphony Association, also testifies to the artistic worth of the young Pole. She attended one of his concerts while she was touring Sweden recently, and was a witness of the enthusiasm with which he was received. She reports that he captivated the critics as well as the audience.

Started at Age of 8.

A native of Poland, Totenberg began his musical studies at the age of 8 in Russia at the Moscow Conservatory. Later he returned to his homeland and continued his studies at the Chopin Conservatory in Warsaw, where his teacher was Mikhailovich, a pupil of Leopold Auer. He also studied with Karl Fleisch in Berlin.

During his student days Totenberg won a first prize at the Chopin

Conservatory, captured another coveted award in Vienna and received the Mendelssohn prize in Berlin. His formal concert debut in 1928 was followed by a series of European tours. He plays and owns a Stradivarius violin which was given to him by a family in Washington.

Among the reviews crediting the young musician with unusual qualities is one from the Berlingske Tidende, of Copenhagen, in which the critic wrote:

"Roman Totenberg, who achieved success here last winter, has now returned, and played last night at the Tivoli. He is a thorough technician, prepared to take up the sword with anyone. He is correctness itself, down to the finest details, and remarkably masculine in rhythm. He played Chaikovski's D major concerto with the freedom and grace of a great artist, without concealing the composer even by the shadow of a tone. He is not

the Slavic type who breaks the strings as an outlet for his feelings; he is a wise man who knows where the limit lies, even when the tempo demands blazing fire."

The Copenhagen Politiken asserted that "he confirmed his success in the Chaikovski concerto. He sang it with a broad, full tone, and made it virtuosic where it should be, with wonderful violinism and healthy temperament." The reviewer for Degens Nyheder said that he played "with a technical bravura and a Slavic rubato in the recitative which produced great effects."

Last winter Totenberg toured Spain and drew from the critic for La Vanguardia in Barcelona the following comment: "One does not often find among virtuosi the earnestness shown by this young violinist. With him, technique serves not as a means to show off the artist, but to interpret with masterly

Engaged by Dr. Kindler,
Who Heard Young
Artist Abroad.

tone and impressive bowing the spirit of the work."

Totenberg is but one of the soloists engaged for the coming season. The list includes John McCormack, Egon Petri, Myra Hess, Ethel Bartlett and Rae Robertson, Margaret Hanshaw (recent winner of the Schubert Memorial award), Ira Petina (a new mezzo-soprano at the Metropolitan), Elizabeth Travis pianist, and Sylvia Meyer, harpist.

The National Symphony will begin its fifth season on Sunday afternoon, October 20, in Constitution Hall, and Sunday concerts are scheduled for October 27, November 3 and 17, December 1 and 15, January 12, February 2 and 9, March 1 and 15 and April 5. Thursday concerts will be given on November 7 (evening), November 21, December 12, January 9 (evening), January 23, February 20, March 5 and 26.

10 Child Concerts.

Next season the children's concerts will be ten in number. Three will be given in Central High School January 16, February 7 and 27, three in Eastern High School January 17, February 8 and 28, and three in Western High School January 20, February 10 and March 2. The tenth concert of the series will take place in Constitution Hall on March 21.

As announced last week, Dr. Kindler promises for the series of 20 Sunday and Thursday concerts in the regular schedule, a number of novelties, including the "London" symphony of Ralph Vaughan Williams, the first symphony of Dmitri Shostakovich, a suite by Bela Bartok, a set of Polish dances by Alexander Tansman, a sinfonietta by Bernard Wagenaar, "Southern Nights," by Franz Bormschie, and a new work by a resident composer.