

Rachmaninoff at Curtis

Sergei Rachmaninoff, who was born 150 years ago this year, was a frequent guest in Philadelphia and, on at least one occasion, at Curtis. In November and December 1939, The Philadelphia Orchestra presented a Rachmaninoff Festival to mark the 30th anniversary of his orchestra debut (which was as a conductor, although he played a solo piano piece on that concert). During the 1939 visit, Rachmaninoff and his wife, Natalie Rachmaninoff, stopped by Curtis, possibly for a reception or similar event, and signed the school's guestbook.

Though little information about the visit is available, the composer is remembered today with a drawing by Alfred Bendeiner, on display at 1726 Locust Street.

BROCHURE CREDIT: PHILADELPHIA ORCHES-TRA ARCHIVES; DRAWING CREDIT: ALFRED BENDINER (1899-1964)