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IGOR STRAWINSKI's GRAND-NEPHEW PLAYS

CHOPIN IN SALZBURG

SOURCE SALZBURG: RFE News Bureau.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: May 15 1956.

EVALUATION COMMENT: The program and local press reviews
may be inspected at the Polish Evaluation Desk.

Attention musical Editor.

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PARIS pianist André STRAWINSKI, a grand-nephew of Igor STRAWINSKI, played Chopin at a concert in the SALZBURG "Mozarteum Concert Hall" on May 15 1956. Born in WILNO, Poland, in 1920, André STRAWINSKI became a pupil of Prof. SPINARSKI there, and as such was raised in the Padarewski tradition. The Germans deported the young artist to TRAUNSTEIN, Bavaria, in 1944, where the pianist, after the liberation, played in many concerts arranged for the US Occupation Forces. In 1948, André STRAWINSKI decided to move from TRAUNSTEIN to PARIS, where he is living as a concert pianist. He came to SALZBURG on the initiative of his sister, Miss Jolande STRAWINSKI, who is working here for the APWR /American-Polish War Relief./ After his return to PARIS, André STRAWINSKI will give some concerts there, and then intends to tour England and the United States.

The program of André STRAWINSKI's SALZBURG concert apparently was underrating the SALZBURG audience,

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spoiled in musical matters by the most brilliant performers, and educated to savor each delicacy and finesse of the highest-strung works of art: it consisted of the usual Chopin selections for the average public, the usual Mazurkas, ballads, waltzs, improptus -- no sonata, not one of the grandes études. The audience rouse to warmer applause only after the Phantasy-Improptu C sharp minor /cis-moll/ op.66., the fifth piece of performance. The pianist's brilliant technique reached the dangerous stage of loftiness, where the execution overruns interpretation; the delicate tinges of Chopin's sensitive temperament drowned in a whirl of cool, sophisticated brilliance which in its wake left esteem for the pianist but no reminiscence of Chopin. André STRAWINSKI was thanked by warm applause on part of the audience consisting to a great degree of members of SALZBURG American colony, and courteous but cool criticism on part of the local reviewers.

End.