

Rosalyn Tureck to give two performances

November 24, 1966

San Diegans will have the privilege of hearing the first lady of Bach, Miss Rosalyn Tureck, in two concerts, Thursday and Friday, December 1 and 2, at 8:30 p.m. in Sherwood Hall, La Jolla. Tickets are still available for Thursday's performance.

On Thursday evening, Miss Tureck, who has been called "the greatest scholar and interpreter of Bach in the world today," will play Bach's "Goldberg Variations," published in 1742. Twenty years ago this aria with 30 variations was considered impossible to play. By the age of 20, Miss Tureck had mastered the work, and since that time her recital of the work has been demanded around the world.

Time Magazine reviewed her recital of the "Goldberg Variations": "She played without intermission or breaks for applause for 83 minutes, and when she stood at last, the cheers that greeted her seemed like shouts from the heart. She had perfectly captured the spiritual momentum of Bach's music."

Her life has been a study of Bach. The Chicago-born artist, who is now a professor of music at the University of California, San Diego, studied from age 14 to 16 under Jan Chiapusso, a Bach scholar. For her first lesson, he gave her a Bach prelude and fugue. Two days later she played it back to him, perfectly and from memory. It was then her teacher told her that she ought to specialize in Bach.

A year later she gave two all-Bach recitals in Chicago, and the following year, at the age of 16, won a full scholarship to the Juilliard School of Music. At age 17, she suddenly realized the immense job ahead of her to truly understand Bach, and so she vowed a life-long research and study of Bach and pianistic techniques. A London record review intimates the result of her quest: "She has felt her way to the heart of Bach's music and the result combines profound scholarship with intense musical imagination."

She graduated cum laude with a Life Fellowship from Juilliard in 1935 and immediately began a series of concert tours through the United States and Canada. Since 1947 her tours have been international taking her to England, Europe, Israel, South America, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

In 1956 Miss Tureck began to conduct concerto and orchestral performances of Bach with the Collegium Musicum in Copenhagen. She went on to conduct the great philharmonic orchestra of London at Festival Hall in 1957 and the Scottish National Orchestra in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

In 1958 she made history as the first woman to conduct the New York Philharmonic. The following year, in London, she formed her own chamber orchestra, the Tureck Bach players. She continues to appear with them in concerts in London and Bach festivals throughout the world.

The artist-scholar is not only adept at piano, but the harpsichord and clavichord as well. She has written a three volume "Introduction to the Performance of Bach," published in 1960, which has been acclaimed as the greatest contribution to the study of Bach since Schweitzer.

She is a member of the Royal Music Association of London and is the recipient of honors and awards including an Honorary Doctor of Music degree from Colby College in Maine; the Phi Beta award for excellence in the arts; and the Town Hall award, given for the best New York performance of 1937-38.

She served for one semester as Professor at Washington University in St. Louis in 1963 and since 1961 has been an Honorary Fellow of the Guildhall in London, England.

(11/24/66)