

Ruggiero Ricci will appear in recital in La Jolla, March 12

March 2, 1962

The great violinist Ruggiero Ricci will appear in recital in La Jolla, Monday night, March 12, in a concert series sponsored by the University of California.

Ricci, who won outstanding acclaim as a soloist with the San Diego Symphony last month, will play at Sherwood Hall, Art Center in La Jolla, at 8:30 p.m., Monday, March 12. He appears under the auspices of the University's All-University Concert Series. Under a recent private endowment, the University is presenting performances by outstanding musical artists in the University communities.

Tickets for the event are \$2.50 general admission, \$1.00 for students. They are available at the Art Center, at University Extension in downtown San Diego, and on the San Diego campus of the University of California.

Ricci's program includes the Sonata in D major, by Vivaldi, arranged by Respighi; Sonata in A major, Op. 100, by Brahms; Sonata in G major, Op. 3, No. 3, by Beethoven; Sonata in D major, Op. 94, by Prokofieff; and Paganini's "Nel cor piu non mi sento" for the violin alone. His accompanist will be Carlo Bussotti.

Three decades have passed since San Francisco-born Ruggiero Ricci catapulted into legend as a wiry little boy of eight, acclaimed "the greatest musical genius since Mozart." Now entering his forties and the father of five children, Ricci, with more than 2,000 concert triumphs behind him, has successfully crossed the treacherous seas of one of the most spectacular child prodigy careers to become, in the recent opinion of THE NEW YORK TIMES, "an undisputed master."

Averaging 100 appearances a year in concert halls from Hong Kong to Helsinki, from Buenos Aires to Boston, the wunderkind of yesterday is a towering figure on the world musical scene today. Seven appearances in a single season with the Boston Symphony typify an imposing list of U. S. orchestral engagements for Ricci, who appears annually with virtually every important concert and radio orchestra of Europe as well. As a musical ambassador under U. S. State Department sponsorship to remote parts of the world, he has been bravoed in Bengali by bejeweled maharajahs and carried through the streets of Accra on the ebony-skinned shoulders of Gold Coast cocoa planters.

Within the span of a few months he has played 46 concerts in Australia and filled Buenos Aires' historic Teatro Colon to SRO capacity 10 times in a row. Twenty concerts in West Germany were booked and sold out a year in advance of his recent return there, while his last orchestral appearance in East Berlin ended in such a stampeding demonstration that he was eventually obliged to pull off his necktie and toss it across the footlights by way of signaling that he had reached his last encore.

In other countries behind the Iron Curtain Ricci has won such frenzied partisans that an official invitation was tendered him last Spring by Gosconcert, the State Concert Organization of the U. S. S. R., to give 12 concerts under its auspices in the 5 leading cities of Russia. His Russian debut in Moscow's historic Tchaikovsky Hall won a standing ovation for the American violinist from a wildly enthusiastic audience and he was obliged to play no less than 9 encores. "Ruggiero Ricci would probably still be playing, in fact," a wire news service reported, "if a string on his bow hadn't snapped!"

Under the Decca and London Ffrr labels, Ricci has made a distinguished list of LP recordings that are already world-wide best-sellers. Among them are the two Prokofieff Violin Concerti and the Lalo "Symphonie Espagnole" with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande under Ansermet; the Sibelius and Mendelssohn Concerti with the London Symphony under Fjeldstad and Gamba respectively; all 24 of Paganini's phenomenally difficult "Caprices" and an entire recital of virtuoso works for unaccompanied violin-- the latter inspired by his unique successes performing the same feat on the stages of New York's Carnegie Hall and in London, Paris and Berlin.

During a tour of her country in 1951, Ricci met and subsequently married Argentine actress Valma Rodriguez. The couple and their two small children now make their permanent home in Geneva, Switzerland, in a streamlined modern apartment house facing the United Nations European headquarters. Mr. Ricci's violin is a 1734 Guarnerius del Gesu which belonged to the late Bronislaw Huberman.