

ECS EDY, Aladar  
pianist

1952



Aladar Ecsedy

Aladar Ecsedy, short, slight pianist newly arrived from Hungary, made his Canadian debut in a very small way so far as surroundings are concerned, but in an auspicious way artistically.

The auditorium of the First Hungarian Presbyterian church, Toronto, was packed with Canadian Hungarians to hear this young compatriot who had appeared with symphony orchestras of Stockholm, Budapest, Helsinki, and of Valencia under Jose Iturbi, while in Paris.

The minister of the church announced that since coming to Canada a few months ago the young artist hadn't been in a position to practise at a piano.

But it didn't take long for him to show he had what it took—and then some!

He opened with two "Legendes" by Ferenc Liszt, "St. Francois d'Assise, la predication aux oiseaux" and "St. Francois de Paule marchant sur les flots," and six Chopin Etudes.

You could tell in the two Liszt selections Ecsedy was a pianist of poetry and temperament.

The highlight came in Liszt's "Venezia e Napoli" (Tarantella), masterful in feeling and brilliant in execution.

He had hit his stride, and from then on he carried the day, through Weber, Beethoven, more Liszt, an obvious specialty of his, more Chopin and Falla's "Ritual Fire Dance."