

ment, in the primary music schools and in the general schools, are not considered seriously. On the contrary, the amateur movement is highly regarded as a part of the artistic life and ideals of the Soviet Union. It is, however, only when extended visits are made to Conservatory Preparatory Schools, when conversations are held with directors of such schools—and with the directors and staffs of Conservatories in Moscow, and Kiev, and the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in Leningrad—that one is fully impressed with the great seriousness attached to *music education as a profession* in the Soviet Union.

In the first place, the special Conservatory Preparatory Schools, such as the Central Music School (an eleven-year school) in Moscow which prepares students for the Moscow Conservatory as well as for other Conservatories, give a solid education in music, and at the same time and in the same school, the general education courses are offered. In this school from the first year (age seven) there is serious music education, including solfeggio, music dictation, rhythmic, instruction on instruments. Participation in the orchestra is compulsory at this preparatory school. The basic instrument is the piano.

In this institution there is art instruction during the first four years, with courses in history and appreciation of art and, of course, as the students progress, intensive instruction in such subjects as harmony and history of music—both Russian music and music of the Western world. The teachers at this school, for the most part, are trained at the Moscow Conservatory. Enrollment in the school is based on competitive examinations, and the right to continue as a student in the school is based on the most rigorous examinations.

Within the plan of organization in the school are competitive events. One afternoon a Chopin audition was attended. Students as young as eight years participated in the contest—the purpose of which was to determine which students would have the privilege of appearing in a concert soon to be held. Professors were the adjudicators. It was not only an illuminating experience to