

music for amateur groups. They stressed the fact that composers are challenged when writing music for school or non-professional groups, and agreed that it is a difficult task which required not only simplicity but originality. Both Khachaturian and Kabalevsky devote considerable time to the amateur music movement in the Soviet Union.

THE OLDEST CONSERVATORY in the Soviet Union is the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in Leningrad, founded in 1862. Attached to this Conservatory is an eleven-year preparatory school begun in 1936. This is a well organized school, where intensive training both in music education and in general education is given the students. An orchestra of eighty is a part of the plan of the preparatory school. Some of Russia's most distinguished musicians have studied and graduated at this fine Conservatory, including Rubinstein, Tchaikovsky, Glazunov, Shostakovich.

There are daytime classes as well as evening classes, and correspondence education is also offered. The Conservatory has two symphony orchestras, as well as a special orchestra for the training of orchestra conductors and an opera studio orchestra. The total enrollment is about 1,000. About 100 may graduate and of this number ten may qualify for post-graduate work.

One has the impression that the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in Leningrad is a well organized institution with the highest of musical standards. The warm reception received from the Director, Yuri Brjushkov, a distinguished pianist, and from other members of the faculty, was especially appreciated.

At the Moscow and Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatories some interesting conversations were held with the composers and musicologists relative to the desirability of experimentation in art—music, painting, sculpture, ballet. It would seem that the general belief among artists in the Soviet Union is that, while it is interesting to support innovation, experimentation merely for the sake of experimentation is not desirable. Art for art's sake is not enough, it was gleaned from such conversations, but