

Shostakovich's Seventh to Be Played Aug. 22

Shostakovich's new seventh symphony, which has aroused more interest than any other symphonic work in decades, will be given its first performance in the Chicago district on Saturday evening, Aug. 22, by the Chicago Symphony orchestra at Ravinia park. Frederick Stock will conduct. The symphony will be the program's only item.

This mammoth work was partly composed in Leningrad during the 1941 siege of that city by the Nazis. Shostakovich was serving as a volunteer fire fighter. The symphony was heard for the first time on March 1 in Kuibyshev, Russia. It was given its first western hemisphere performance by Arturo Toscanini and the NBC Symphony orchestra on July 19.

The seventh symphony deals directly with the present war, and seeks to express its composer's confidence in Russia's final victory.

The performance on Aug. 22 will be sponsored by a committee of prominent Russians under the chairmanship of George Voevodsky. Proceeds will go to Russian war relief. General admission tickets at \$1.50 and special tickets at \$5.50 [which include general admission and a reserved seat] are on sale at the downtown Ravinia office [231 South La Salle street, room 1522] and at the Russian war relief headquarters [80 East Jackson boulevard, room 755]. Boxes will sell for \$100.

Dr. Stock is contributing his services and the Ravinia Festival association is turning over the park to the Russian committee.

❖ ❖