

Another stop on Tansman's tour was Hollywood, where he befriended Charlie Chaplin. For the purpose of that meeting he had been equipped with a letter of recommendation from Ralph Barton, American caricaturist and husband of Germaine Tailleferre, the only female member of Les Six. The composer met Chaplin at the Coco[a]nut Grove club, frequented by the elite of Hollywood filmmakers. At the same club he also made acquaintance with Greta Garbo, Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford and Joan Crawford. They started to host him at their residences and on locations; besides, Tansman assisted on making films with Jean Harlow and "The King of Hollywood" Clark Gable. Chaplin, though not socialising much after his divorce with Lita Grey, invited Tansman to his house, forwarding that invitation through his assistant, the actor and journalist Harry Crocker. The director of *The Tramp* and *The Gold Rush* had a screening room at his place, where Tansman attended a preview of *The Circus*; Chaplin observed the young artist's reactions with a lot of attention. They spent the whole night talking over savoury alcoholic drinks in those times of prohibition. Finally, Tansman decided to dedicate his concerto for piano and orchestra to Chaplin.

*Piano Concerto No. 2* was a hit in the US and was celebrated with a performance comparable in scope to a rock star concert of today. Hollywood Bowl gathered almost eighteen thousand spectators, Chaplin included, to listen to Robert Schmitz at the piano and the Hollywood Festival Orchestra conducted by Eugene Goossens. With shells designed by Frank Lloyd Wright [Jr.] in the 1920s, the gigantic amphitheatre made a tremendous impression, especially at night. Fit in the Bolton Canyon, it was continuously rebuilt and adapted for symphonic concerts. *Piano Concerto No. 2* was not the only Tansman piece to be performed at that place which, in the future, would host Bob Dylan, Pink Floyd and The Beatles. It was, however, exceptional: not only because it was hailed as a masterpiece of the world's music, but also because it was cheered as Charlie Chaplin's musical biography.