

RUSS COMPOSER WINS OVATION

Sergei Rachmaninoff Interprets Own Works at National; Good Program.

Washington music lovers enjoyed a rare artistic treat yesterday afternoon at a recital given by Sergei Rachmaninoff, composer and pianist, at the National Theater. The ovation that the distinguished visitor received at the end of the concert assured him of the success he had won in Washington.

The program was selected with great care, presenting the composer, however, in the role of interpreter rather than composer. There was only one group of numbers on the program by Rachmaninoff, and in these centered the real interest of the audience.

He opened the program with Mozart's "Theme and Variations in A major," which was followed by Beethoven's "Sonata" No. 3. The careful reading he gave to these numbers, displaying their beautiful simplicity delighted the audience and they immediately applauded for more. He responded with an encore, a treat in staccato notes.

The group of Chopin numbers brought forth a storm of applause and was followed by Rachmaninoff's "Prelude in C minor." After this number came the artist's compositions, the "Humoresque" however winning the most favor from the audience. The two transcriptions, "The Lilacs" and Polka de W. R. were charmingly rendered with exquisite delicacy and finesse. The last number on the program and one which furnished a suitable climax was Liszt's "Rhapsodie" No. 12, which was played with all the understanding and depth of a master. The audience was so shaken out of its usual calm by this stupendous number that a veritable ovation brought the artist back for an encore and not satisfied with one, he was forced and seemed pleased to give another.

Mr. Rachmaninoff has no disagreeable mannerisms, and his calm and dignified appearance gives an impression of strength and understanding. Although he makes no display of his technique he nevertheless conveys the impression of it. Being first composer and second a performer he is concerned rather with a composition as a whole than a series of polished phrases, considering less its technical value than its racial or universal aspects.