

Splendid Concerts: A Great Quartet, A Master Pianist

BY RUTH MILLER.

The London String quartet, which made its initial bow to the Chicago devotees of chamber music yesterday at the Blackstone theater, managed to do away with all appearance of the usual oppressively carefully staged concert and evoked in its place the perfect atmosphere for this classic type of ensemble playing. Namely, they played as spontaneously, with as much patent enjoyment of their art, as unaffectedly, with as little striving for sensational and overwhelming effect, and as unconcerned with their surroundings as if their exquisite music was for the delight of a little circle of intimate and privileged friends.

And, added to this inviting delightful atmosphere of musical friendliness, which made this reporter loath to remember certain obligations due other Sunday recitalists, was the perfect musicianship of these four men. In listening to them one could hardly be concerned enough with pedantic analysis to note that their ensemble, their glowing tone with its life and multiple shadings, their technic, the balance of voices, and the impetuous, refreshing enthusiasm in their music was well nigh without flaw. Rather one experienced the rare musical pleasure of a general and wholly satisfying musical impression.

Their D minor Mozart quartet was idealized ensemble, exquisite, Mozartian sunshine. The first modern piece of the program was a folk song quartet based on a Berkshire melody called "Dance to Your Daddy," in the Cecil Sharp collection by H. Waldo Warner, the viola player of the organization.

Mr. Warner's quartet is well written, a subtle mixture of the old and new method of composure, with the old dominating. It possesses much charm of rhythmic and melodic line.

The remainder of the program was devoted to the two exquisite sketches by Goossens, played infimitably, incidentally, and the Beethoven E minor quartet.

When we arrived at the Auditorium Rachmaninoff was proving to an audience which packed that theater that venerable adage that nothing succeeds like success. The one inescapable attribute which is hurled at one in the masterful piano playing of this gaunt Russian is that of force. And at times it is an element rather terrifying in his powerful masses of tone and forbidding interpretive manifestations.

Yesterday Rachmaninoff's playing was as bleak and starkly devoid of tenderness, the saccharine or sentimental, as was the mottled asbestos curtain which served him as a background of silken and velvet draperies.

He is a great musician whose superb pianistic equipment reminds one somehow of implacable metals. Nevertheless his playing is never hard. It is too big for that. But it does contain an overwhelming fiery sweep which exhausts rather than exalts.

He was received with the tumultuous acclaim that its always accorded so commanding and superb a musical figure

DELTA SIGMA PI SORORITY HOLDS A PARTY TONIGHT

The Delta Sigma Pi sorority will give a dinner, card party and entertainment tonight at the Great Northern hotel. More than 100 guests will attend. Miss Alice Dwyer, president of the sorority, will be assisted in receiving by Miss Myrtle Helwig, Miss Helen Koessler, Miss Estella Isaacson, and Miss Helen Downs.



MISS ALICE DWYER.

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