

# ENTHRALLED CROWD HEARS RACHMANINOFF

Russia's Great Pianist  
Thrills Audience

By BRUNO DAVID USSHER  
Sergel Rachmaninoff, Russia's foremost living composer-pianist and conductor of great distinction, an unhappy refugee since the revolution, played his first, and for this reason only, recital at Trinity auditorium last evening under L. E. Behmyer's managerial auspices. Trinity's seating capacity of about 1200 could probably have been filled again, so great was the demand for tickets.

Rachmaninoff fascinated and thrilled his audience, musically and socially representative. He impressed his listeners deeply; he kept them spellbound, and again depressed them. He caused even disappointment. There was no sweeping enthusiasm, hence few encores. But the audience felt a deep admiration and sincere sympathy for the justly famed composer and pianist.

### TECHNICAL INDEPENDENCE

Absolute technical independence and an entrancingly crystalline, round, resonant tone, often lusciously warm and carelessly tender, tones that equal flute trills and sharp glissandos, then again purposefully crisp or otherwise indifferent, mark the digital aspects of the Russian's playing. While his technique is eminently powerful, yet there always is poise and ease. Indeed he "touches" the keys, draws out a ringing tone, a belcanto of the piano. Rachmaninoff relies largely on the art of his touch. He uses the pedals, especially the right one, sparingly. Dynamic shading and coloring are more largely a matter of touch than of pedaling, hence the clarity of his tone pictures, the perfect evenness of his phrasing as to melodic sequences.

Rachmaninoff has the technique of a virtuoso, but he does not perform as a mere virtuoso would. His expression at most times is forceful, a peculiar quiet, inward, dreamy forcefulness, paired with utter virility, which, free from all robustness, is aesthetically charming.

Rachmaninoff's "magnetism" as a concert pianist is not of the usual type. He does not pour himself out. As he sits before the keyboard, waiting a few moments between sections, he seems to listen to the inner voice within himself, within his Steinway.

### INWARD CONCENTRATION

He is a player of inward concentration of spirituality. There is an absolute, ascetic expression on his face, that of a soul in travail, bleeding for his beloved homeland. In Rachmaninoff a physically strong man, in spite of his tall figure, which military in its harshness, sings a bit as that of an invalid; it moves slowly. Did he enjoy playing last night? He played at times wondrously, beautifully, but only at times.

Beginning with Meitner, he gave the "Improvisations" of this "Russian Brahms" with a filigree-like delicacy of technically taxing variations. Weber's old-fashioned "Rondo Brilliant" was a bit of old-fashioned jewelry, sparkling under the polish of velocity plus style. Then Chopin, of all selections the most gratifying from the interpretative angle.

Leading up to the great B flat minor Sonata with the F sharp minor Notturmo, lovely in tone quality, and the Valse in D, he made that Sonata sound its real message, a heroic fantasy in four movements. It has the grandeur of sentiment even in its lyric moods, happily free from all saccharine sweetness.

The so-called "Funeral March" appeared more as a music of commemoration, an imaginary ritual than a march. Here the audience was literally overawed by the intensity of expression and breathed free only as the pianist gave the closing Cresc. with fascinating weirdness, ecstatically almost.

### GLIMPSES OF GREATNESS

Of lesser importance was the playing of his own C sharp minor prelude, a composition he himself does not value highly, and of his "Berenada," Moszkowsky's "La Jonleuse" was a bit of lovable,

## 'POT OF GOLD' HUNT STILL ON

By Associated Press  
Manhattan, Kan., Feb. 3.—Undaunted by the fact that the hole they had dug had become so deep that they struck water, a party of Negroes today continued to dig in search of "the pot of gold" in the backyard of Mrs. Amanda Cruz's home here. It was in a dream that Mrs. Cruz "saw" the pot of gold coins. Having a reputation among Negroes as a clairvoyant, a number of volunteers at once began the search at the point designated by Mrs. Cruz. Today, the hole extended over most of the backyard and was 30 feet deep in the deepest part. A pump was used to remove the water seeping into the hole.

## CAL. SOLONS IN 30-DAY RECESS

Governor Coming Soon  
For Norwalk Probe

By Associated Press  
Sacramento, Feb. 3.—The 45th legislature of the state of California has completed the labors of the first half of the session, and in compliance with the constitution, recessed for a period of "not less than 30 days." It will reconvene on March 5. During the four weeks of its activities the legislature received 1938 bills, of which 650 were introduced in the senate, and 1233 in the assembly. There were also about 100 constitutional amendments, and scores of joint and concurrent resolutions, so that the total number of measures presented for legislative consideration neared 2500.

### BUDGET FIRST TIME

For the first time in the history of California, a budget was received under a law that required its submission to the legislature in tabular and complete form.

During the first half, several investigations were started, some of which will continue during the recess. The Jones committee of the senate, which has under investigation the expense of the committee and persons who backed and fought various measures on the last election ballot, planned to continue its sessions at San Francisco, and perhaps elsewhere, during the recess.

### NORWALK HOSPITAL

A joint committee of senators and assemblymen was appointed to inquire into the conditions at the units occupied by the Norwalk State hospital, which is now nearly surrounded by oil developments. The committee, consisting of President Pro-tem, Reed of the senate, Senator Gates, Speaker Merriam of the assembly, and Assemblymen Morris of San Francisco and Weber of Los Angeles, will meet at Senator Gates' office in Los Angeles next Wednesday morning and will proceed thence to the Norwalk institution.

Governor Richardson plans to devote a portion of the recess to his first official visit to the Southland, and it was thought by legislators that he would probably join the Norwalk committee next week in Los Angeles.

### DAVID LAMAR ASKS PARDON

Washington, Feb. 3.—President Harding it was learned at the White House, has received an application for a pardon from David Lamar, "the wolf of Wall street," whose motion for a writ of habeas corpus to prevent his incarceration under a one-year sentence for conspiracy in restraint of foreign commerce was overruled Monday by the supreme court.

airy staccato; Liszt's "Sonetto del Petrarca" luscious in tone, of lyric grandezza, but most of these smaller pieces sounded played somewhat indifferently, like the fanfare but took performance of the "Blue Danube Waltz" in the Schütz Ester arrangement. Likewise were the Kreisler and Last encores disappointing for the same reason.

Altogether Rachmaninoff afforded glimpses of his greatness, but neither in program selections nor in playing, excepting the Chopin, did he share with his audience out of the fullness of his genius.