

Rachmaninoff Plays and Talks of Russian Exiles

Noted Pianist Thrills Hearers in Recital; to Give Second Program

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The ineffable wonder which attends the playing of Sergel Rachmaninoff, pianist-composer, again was achieved when the great Russian appeared in recital at Philharmonic auditorium Saturday afternoon.

The artist's program which was anything but a departure from the conventional, included Mozart's D major Sonata, Chopin's B flat minor Sonata, two Scriabin works, Poeme and Etude; Borodin's Scherzo, Barcarolle by Anton Rubinstein, two Rachmaninoff Preludes, Liebesleid by Kreisler-Rachmaninoff and the Strauss-Tausig, One Lives But Onee.

Rachmaninoff's arpeggios, scale passages, thrills and a thousand and one other pianistic feats forced themselves on the listener by reason of their consummate finish and beauty. His mastery in all branches is as conspicuous as his artistry.

By a power that is intuitive and seemingly without restriction on his efforts of expression, Rachmaninoff carves from the wood and steel in front of him sound cameos of indescribable delicacy and beauty. His sensitive fingers produce pianissimo effects one would hardly believe possible.

Here is one of the high priests of art of this age, devoted to his sacred office with the utmost humility, yet seeking at every turn to subject the person to the cause. A lesson indeed for the aspiring ones present.

The amazed auditors steeped in a transport of delight, brought the gracious Russian a richly deserved homage.

Rachmaninoff will be heard at Philharmonic auditorium in an entirely different program Tuesday evening, December 4, at 8:30.

Musical works of Joseph Achron received their first major presentation in Los Angeles Saturday night, when the local chapter of Mailamm presented the composer and supporting artists in a musicale at Sinai Temple.

It was, of course, Hebrew music that provided the major element of the evening—musical pages of lofty melodic inspiration. Achron disclosed a minute understanding of the racial musical idiom of his

Sergel Rachmaninoff was in reminiscent mood Sunday morning when your interviewer called to chat with him in his Biltmore hotel apartment.

Perhaps the little ghost of yesterday—those happy student days in his native Russia, were threading their way in solemn chain before his mind's eye. Sergel Rachmaninoff has been away from his native Russia for fifteen years.

"I am a man without a country," he said. "Perhaps others do not understand the almost hopeless homesickness of us older Russians—we are without a homeland."

RARELY SMILES

The current legend that Rachmaninoff rarely smiles can well be understood.

The tall Russian, quite apart from his sterling ability as an artist, is a man deeply and profoundly interested in world affairs.

"The interest of the world's people in the creations of the brain and soul is declining, and the achievement of brawn and muscle is taking its place," he said. "Sports seem to be the patronized institutions in all countries."

Mr. Rachmaninoff especially commended the Victor Phonograph company for its meritorious effort to keep alive the great music of the masters. He referred to the new symphony, opera and chamber music record-sets now being released by that company, as "actual photographs of the world's great music."

TO PLAY RHAPSODY

The pianist is engaged at present in the correction of proofs for his new Rhapsody which he will perform with Bruno Walter and the New York Philharmonic orchestra late in December. Following the New York performance Mr. Rachmaninoff will record the work for the Victor company with Leopold Stokowski and the Philadelphia orchestra. The Rhapsody, based on a theme by Paganini, was written while the composer was vacationing in Switzerland last summer.