

All-Russian Program Thrills Bowl

By RICHARD D. SAUNDERS

Climaxed by the Rachmaninoff Second (c-minor) Piano Concerto with the composer at the piano, a beautifully played program enthralled the auditors in the Hollywood Bowl last night. The second all-Russian program in the opening week of Symphonies Under the Stars, it will be repeated tonight.

The Concerto is a work of songful quality, imbued with haunting melodies all tinged with sombre pathos and expressed with the graceful refinement characteristic of the composer. Its three movements are all lyrical in concept, though providing ample contrast in form and mood.

GREAT PIANIST

A great pianist as well as a great composer, Rachmaninoff gave an exquisite interpretation of his own work, his tones singing through the night air with bell-like clarity. The opening Moderato was of elegaic beauty, the Adagio filled with lingering loveliness and the Finale rising to a majestic peroration.

Bakaleinikoff handled the orchestra superbly, his phrasing lucid and his balance deft, demanding firm attacks and presenting each work with authoritative skill. His accompaniment in the Concerto was adroitly adjusted to the soloist.

A delightful opening was the Introduction to Act I of Rimsky-Korsakov's fantasy opera, "Tsar Saltan," its cheerfully moving themes expressed with light touch.

For contrast was Glazounov's symphonic poem, "Stenka Razin," a colorful work of almost choreographic movement, its opening and climax based upon the familiar "Volga Boat Song."

MAGNIFICENT READING

Concluding the first portion of the program was a magnificent reading of the Tchaikovsky Overture "1812." Bakaleinikoff contrived to make it impressive without being noisy, and built to an impressive ending as the Russian national anthem overwhelms the theme of the Napoleonic invaders.

A long and vociferous ovation was accorded Rachmaninoff after the program, as the auditors clamored for an encore.

Operatic excerpts will be given in the Hollywood Bowl on Tuesday night by Dusolina Giannini, soprano, and Richard Bonelli, baritone, with Pietro Cimini conducting.