

# RACHMANINOFF SCORES TRIUMPH

Great Composer and Pianist  
Welcomed by Immense  
Audience

PLAYING IS VIRILE

Intellectual Powers Shown  
in Varied Program—  
Brilliant Technician

**SERGEI RACHMANINOFF:** piano recital, His Majesty's Theatre, program: Theme and variations, Sonata in A; Mozart, Sonata, Op. 10, No. 3; Beethoven, Nocturne, Valse, Polonaise; Chopin, Preludes: G major, D minor, G sharp minor, B flat major; two transcriptions, Lilies, Polka de W. R.; Rachmaninoff, Rhapsodie, No. 12; Liszt, Encore, Pachelbel; Rachmaninoff.

For the second time this year Montreal became the scene of an historic event which gave this city a momentary precedence over any other city in Canada. Montreal was the only Canadian city to be visited by the Paris Symphony Orchestra, and Montreal is the only Canadian city on Mr. Rachmaninoff's tour for this season. Can other Canadian cities blame us for crowing a little? We are indebted to Louis H. Bourdon for these concerts.

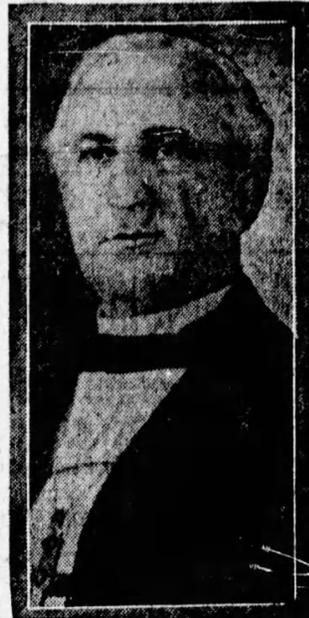
The concert yesterday was epochal. One of the towering figures of the day,—literally as well as figuratively,—was greeted by an audience which was only limited in size by the confines of the theatre. Even the stage was as jammed with people as the management would permit; and it is estimated, from the number of those who could not gain admission, that if His Majesty's had been twice as big it still would have been well filled. Given these conditions as a setting for piano playing that was great in the fullest sense of the word, and for enthusiasm that found vent in echoing "bravos," and the day must indeed be remembered as extraordinary.

### VERY VIRILE PLAYING.

One of the qualities in Mr. Rachmaninoff's playing first to be noted was his tremendous virility. Then we grew increasingly conscious of the range of his vision; from the focal point of the present he seemed to be looking both back into the past and forward into the future, holding to the best in one and anticipating the promise of the other. The depth of the Largo in the Beethoven Sonata was profound, it reached the foundation of music; while the carnival Polka and the Chopin Waltz were but the slightest ornaments of it—like the filagree which decorates a massive building. Before this, we had been enchanted by the wit, the engaging candor of the Mozart Sonata, played with a light fleetness which was a demonstration of controlled strength.

In everything was Mr. Rachmaninoff's power manifest. This is not to say that he only played very loud, although the amount of tone that the piano yields under his command is amazing; but that he is intellectually a giant and that his mental stature is constantly reflected. In the matter of playing softly he is unexcelled, but even in the most delicate embroideries, the impression

### BISHOP FARTHING



Bishop Farthing celebrates the tenth anniversary of his consecration tomorrow.

that his piano is somehow bigger than the ordinary piano, remains. **GREAT BRILLIANCE.**

Mr. Rachmaninoff's technical endowment is so complete that he can, with the safest reliance in his ability, take the most intricate passages at a terrific speed and without misplacing a note by a hair's breadth; and this facility enabled him to throw into the Rhapsody a brilliance, a color, that revealed in a sustained light the genius of Liszt. As to Mr. Rachmaninoff's playing of his own works, presumably he played them as they should be played; certainly he made them all wonderfully beautiful,—compositions that stimulate the imagination and quicken thought.

The concert was advertised to begin at 3 o'clock. At quarter past three the audience was not all settled; and when the great man appeared, he was kept waiting eight minutes by actual count before he could begin without fear of disturbance. That so distinguished a visitor should be subjected to this discourtesy was lamentable. We wonder how many of those who were late would have been equally late had they been wishful to catch a train instead of going to a concert. If managers will have the courage to close the doors at the right time, they may effect a cure.—P. K.

## Tomorrow Night

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## STANLEY