

Sergei Rachmaninoff And Damrosch Charm Audience

Throng In Music Hall Give High
Praise to Composer and
Symphony.

Few musicians appearing before Pittsburgh audiences have received greater tribute than that accorded last night in the closing Ellis Concert in Carnegie Music Hall to Sergei Rachmaninoff, famous Russian composer-pianist, and the New York Symphony Orchestra; and few musicians have given more pleasure with their art. When Rachmaninoff finished playing his Concerto for Piano with Orchestra in C Minor, No. 2, the last on the program, practically every one in the crowded hall remained seated and applauded for many minutes. The composer was obliged to appear on the stage half a dozen times.

It is the first time the composer has appeared before an audience in Pittsburgh; and it is the first time for many seasons that Walter Damrosch has been here with his musicians. He was greeted as an old friend, and he gave a performance with all his old time individuality and fine understanding. His first number was Tschalkowsky's Symphony No. 5 in E Minor. The masterful work of the players was noticeable, particularly in the Finale. The second number comprised two Impressions by Ravel—"Laidronette, Empress of the Statuettes," and "Beauty and the Beast," from the "Mother Goose" suite, the latter calling for especially clever work on the part of the wood winds and tuba.

Then came Rachmaninoff. It is difficult to say which was admired most, his Concerto or his performance of it. Throughout his playing was unaffected and masterly.