

RARE MUSICAL DELIGHT HEARD

Rachmaninoff Delights Audience at Senior High School Concert

By MARY LUCILE ROWE

With a typical Florida stage setting of waving palms, blue sky and mist-mellowed sunlight a great genius of the northland sat and with his usual consummate skill and mastery, presented, Wednesday evening at the Senior high school auditorium, one of the rarest musical delights ever heard in this city.

His program, which might be labeled a well nigh perfect achievement covering a distinguished range of piano literature, revealed always those qualities of genius which have placed him among the world's greatest pianists.

Of his flawless technique, a word is superfluous; of his masterful interpretation much could be said. His playing is of the order in which the composition to be played makes no vital difference. Be it a great sonata, a love lyric or a tone poem, his exquisite interpretative genius is always present.

Rachmaninoff injects into his playing a national characterization that is heart finding, an insistent note of brooding melancholy. Those nations which have a long tradition of tragedy and misfortune to look back upon seem to give expression to their emotion either through poetic or musical genius, and whether it be true or merely sympathetic association one sees about Rachmaninoff a dim aura of mystery and throughout his playing, a tragic quality of tone singing through all the under current like the distant sighing of the sea, rising at times in an abandon of sorrow and again in poignant tenderness.

It would be difficult to determine just when the apex of the program was reached, but in the sonata, Fairy Tale, opus 25, number 1, by Medtner, he applied all the rich resource of interpretative skill at his command. It is seldom that a program is heard with quite the emotional and dramatic power which distinguished this performance, yet the audience had hoped to hear more of the artist's own compositions which shows him at the height of his inspiration and, while modern, holds to harmony with the dignity and depth and color of the older masters. There perhaps will always be a diversity of opinion as to the relative merits of artists, yet Rachmaninoff's place in the world's great musical structure has never been contested, nor will it be denied that his creative genius belongs to the enduring things of art.

Insistent applause induced the artist to play his incomparable prelude in C-sharp minor.

The program follows:

1. Two organ choral preludes...
..... Bach-Busoni
(a) Now Come the Gentile's Savior.
(b) Rejoice Beloved Christians.
2. Prelude and Fugue, opus 29...
..... S. Tanejew
3. Sonate, Fairy Tale, opus 25,
No. 1 N. Medtner
Allegro abandonmento;
Andantino con moto;
Allegro con spirito;
(without intermission).
4. Sonate, No. 4, opus 30.....
..... A. Scriabine
5. (a) Nocturne
(b) Scherzo Chopin
6. Two Etudes Tableaux.....
..... Rachmaninoff
7. (a) Etude, D flat major... Liszt
(b) Etude, A minor.....
..... Paganini-Liszt