

## Master Pianist Provides Memorable Concert Here

By William Lichtenwaenger

War or no war, embargo or no embargo, the University Choral Union last night inaugurated its sixty-first annual series of concerts with a memorable recital in Hill Auditorium by that master pianist of a fast receding era, Sergei Rachmaninoff. Indeed, among other things it is for the peace in which to enjoy just such experiences, indicative of a true civilization, as Rachmaninoff last night provided that most men claim to be planning and fighting. All the more reason, then, for us fortunates to glory in the actuality of such an experience.

As an instance of how far music is removed from the petty fluctuations of every day politics, we might point out that the music played for an American audience by a Russian exile had three national origins—Germany, Poland, and Russia. The significant thing is that we listened to the music neither because of nor in spite of these origins, but because it has won a supreme place for itself in the only true democracy, the world of tone.

### Plays Bach, Beethoven

More specifically, it was an extremely well-formed program of classical Bach, late Beethoven, and nineteenth century piano studies that Rachmaninoff set before us. Of first interest was the seldom heard last sonata, Op. 111 in C minor, of Beethoven, its two movements, Allegro con Brio and Adagio, are minor dramas complete in themselves, comparable in their originality and reckless vehemence only to the same master's late quartets and finale to the Choral Symphony. In the vast and enigmatic Adagio there is a great restlessness, a manipulation of wide-spread tonal masses, an intermingling of austere arabesque with gracious melody, that reminds one of Sibelius.

Unusual and unfamiliar as this music is, it was revealed with the simplicity of perfection by the artist. Rachmaninoff's tremendous capacity as a pianist, his constant subordination of a mighty technique to the demands of a sincere and supreme musical intelligence, is a matter of past history which needs no description here. And last night his playing was unrestrained by the touches of sternness and severity which occasionally have marked it in the past. There was tenderness and mellowness as well as defiance in his Beethoven. This gentler quality, of course, was more in evidence in the four Chopin etudes which highlighted the latter half of the program. Yet here the sentiment was always healthily masculine, not morbid; it was Chopin at his heartiest and best.

### Bach Equally Satisfying

Equally satisfying, in another way, was the evening's opening performance of Bach's Sixth French Suite in E major. What Rhapsody in Blue is to the dance music of today this and similar collections of dance tunes were to the dance music of Queen Anne's day—idealizations for hearing rather than dancing. Interest is shared between the vitality of the fundamental dance rhythm and the sensuous, arabesque-like appeal of the instrumental sounds. Both qualities Rachmaninoff brought out with complete facility and with just the right pinch of interpretive seasoning.

Filling out the program were one of the composer's own etudes, in A minor, three pieces of the

same type by Liszt, plus the Lisztian fantasy on Schubert's song, "The Trout", and the latter composer's A-flat minor Impromptu. The Liszt etudes were delightful for the tonal beauty and deftness with which they were done; the "Trout" fantasy annoys us because it supplants the simple melodic charm of the original song with a thimbleful of pianistic glitter. By way of encores, one of the most attentive capacity audiences we have ever seen in Hill Auditorium was treated to a Chopin Mazurka and the composer's inimitable performance of his own C-sharp minor Prelude.

## Weather Forecast

EAST LANSING—(AP)—Low pressure, with three centers, extended from the lake region westward and southwestward to the south Pacific coast and Mexico today. The main center was over Iowa. Relatively high pressure occupied the Atlantic and north Pacific coast states. Light to heavy rain occurred during the last 24 hours from the upper Mississippi eastward to the Appalachians. Dubuque, Ia., reported 3.00 inches. Temperatures were considerably higher east of the Mississippi river but somewhat lower in the western United States. The indications were for cloudy weather in this vicinity tonight and Thursday with occasional rain. It will be warmer tonight.

### Forecast

Lower Michigan: Cloudy tonight and Thursday. Intermittent rain probable. Warmer in south and central portions tonight; somewhat cooler in extreme north portions Thursday.

Ann Arbor and vicinity: Cloudy tonight and Thursday, intermittent rain probable; warmer tonight; fresh southeast and south winds.

### Statistical

Highest temperature this date in last 66 years, 76 in 1899; lowest, 26 in 1879.

Highest temperature Tuesday, 51; lowest, 36; mean, 44; lowest last night, 44.

The sun sets tonight at 5:36 and rises Thursday at 6:58.

The moon sets Thursday at 5:16 a.m.

(University Observatory)

Temperature at 7 a.m. today, 45.0.

Maximum temperature for 24 hours preceding 7 a.m. today, 50.5.

Minimum temperature for 24 hours preceding 7 a.m. today, 35.7.

Temperature at 7 p.m. yesterday, 44.0.

Precipitation, trace.

Miles of wind, 134.2.

Barometer, 7 a.m. today, 29.07.

### Temperature Chart

7:30 a.m. H I.

Alpena	60	40	59	Cloudy
Boston	33	45	32	Clear
Chicago	56	57	54	Rain
Detroit	50	51	41	Cloudy
Duluth	37	44	36	Cloudy
Grand Rapids	46	51	44	Rain
Miami	80	86	75	Cloudy
Milwaukee	52	50	52	Rain
Pittsburgh	54	54	48	Rain
Washington	50	60	58	Cloudy
Maximum 88 at Phoenix, Ariz.				
Minimum 12 at Helena, Mont.				