

Music

By J. D. Callaghan
DETROIT SYMPHONY

Sergei Rachmaninoff and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra built together a florid second half of the regular subscription concert in Masonic Temple which will be hard to forget, come what may.

With Rachmaninoff at the piano, Detroit had its first opportunity to hear the artist's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, in which Rachmaninoff came very near exceeding the might of his already established fame as a pianist.

Audience Gets Thrills

The piano and orchestra were wedded in a magnificent coloration, with the dour Russian performing marvels of technical and melodic fireworks. When it was ended the audience, which filled extra seats added to the regular capacity of the auditorium, went into a state near hysteria.

Again and again Rachmaninoff came back to the stage to accept the ovation, while the audience pounded its palms, shouted and whistled for a full 10 minutes. For reasons which no doubt were very excellent, the artist declined to play an encore.

Meantime, the management tried every device to permit Rachmaninoff to take his departure. They lowered the lights in the hall but the ovation continued. Rachmaninoff came forth, bringing an obviously reluctant Victor Kolar to share in the applause.

Kolar Starts Music

As a final resort, Kolar mounted the podium to start the orchestra on the final serving of color, three musical pictures from the "Tsar Saltan," of Rimsky-Korsakoff. Even after the first notes had been sounded, a spatter of applause continued in the house.

Kolar, however reluctant he may have been to share Rachmaninoff's ovation, was well entitled to the honor. He and the orchestra contributed much to the magnificence of the Rhapsody, playing an accompaniment which was a work of art in its own right.

It was an all-Russian program, the other numbers being the Tschaikowsky Fourth Symphony and the overture to "Bride of the Czar," also by Rimsky-Korsakoff.

The reception given Kolar after the Tschaikowsky symphony should leave the gentleman in no doubt as to the large place he holds in the affections of Detroit. There was a warmth to the greeting which transcended any mere recognition of the exceptionally fine manner in which he conducted.