

## RACHMANINOFF HEARD WITH GREAT ACCLAIM

Famous Pianist and Composer  
Pleases Capacity Audience  
At Aycock.

By MRS. GEORGE C. EICHHORN

Appearance of a great music leader in Greensboro is always a notable occasion, but the concert appearance of Sergei Rachmaninoff, world-famous pianist and composer, in Aycock auditorium last night at 8:30 o'clock was a musical event of supreme interest, both historically and musically.

The artist, who ranks as one of the world's immortals, is recognized as one of the greatest pianists of our time, and his name is a household word in the United States as a composer of music which ranks high with that of composers of all time.

The capacity audience, made up of students of Woman's college and music lovers of the city who combine in membership in Greensboro Civic Music association, had anticipated the program given by the Russian pianist-composer since announcement was first made that he would appear here. Many listeners had been at the auditorium a full hour before the artist was scheduled to begin his program, and that, on a night marked by cold, rain and wind, is one criterion by which interest in a given artist may be gauged. Such anticipation and interest in the artist, the man and his music which he played, both that written by other great composers and that which he wrote himself, found its way across the footlights and was returned a hundred-fold.

Mr. Rachmaninoff had chosen to open his program with the "French Suite in E Major", by J. S. Bach, which was followed by the "Sonata in B minor Opus 83", by Chopin, A Liszt arrangement of Schubert's song, "The Trout", and the "Impromptu in A Flat minor", by Schubert, made up the next group. Three of his own compositions, "Etude-Tableau", "Daisies" and "Oriental Sketches", brought the pianist as composer. Two contemporary composers represented were the Russian Medtner, whose "Fair Tale in E Minor" was presented, and the French composer Francis Poulenc, who was represented by his "Toccata" and "Novellette". "The Tarantella", from Liszt's "Venezia e Napoli", brought the program to a brilliant pianistic conclusion.

The mere recitation of numbers played on the program either tells nothing, or everything. Rachmaninoff presented the thoughts and wishes of his fellow composers, interjecting no additional thoughts or wishes of his own. To this end alone was the effortless ease of bravura passages, the singing tone which never labored for strength, the virtuosity which was quietly, and properly, set into the background. The great pianist used every means at his command as a master of the piano, and, more, as a great composer who read the thoughts of his brother composers and brought their message.

That was part of the concert. The rest was the response of the audience, which finally had the great satisfaction of hearing the composer-pianist play his familiar "Prelude in C Sharp Minor", and the artist could make no greater offering of his feelings toward his audience. He is very seldom pleased to play the number. The performance of it last night was indication enough of his willingness to meet the wish of his listeners.

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