

MUSIC

Symphony Plays to Full House for Season's First Concert

By HELEN BUCHALTER

Scheduling a concert on the night after election might seem to be tempting the demons of the box office, but the National Symphony took the gamble last night and won.

More than 3500 people, showing no signs of voting day hangovers, heard the first concert of the symphony's 10th season in Constitution Hall, with Hans Kindler conducting and Sergei Rachmaninoff as soloist. It was the kind of audience Washington calls "brilliant"—that means the boxes were full, there were a lot of "name" personages in the audience, and there was more than the ordinary number of persons dressed up for the occasion.

But the event was brilliant musically as well. Despite the welcome-back atmosphere of a first concert, it was the renowned soloist who irresistibly called up the most excited response.

MAGIC NAME

Rachmaninoff bears one of the few remaining magic names in the piano field. Leaner and grayer than ever, his tall, imperious bearing slightly bent now, he retains as only the great ones do the strength and flexibility of his hands. Last night's audience heard the 67-year-old pianist-composer play the music of his youth, the romantic second concerto. He played it lovingly as if thru this music he could discourse intimately with the young Rachmaninoff of 40 years ago.

Applause for Mr. Rachmaninoff was long and insistent, and sounded as if it were a demand for the once inevitable preludes as encores, but Mr. Rachmaninoff in his usual remote, reserved manner had no intention of adding an anti-climax to the concerto. He did insist that Dr. Kindler share many of his bows for the orchestra's sympathetic accompaniment.

Dr. Kindler provided two novelties on the program. One was a genuinely

new work, "American Festival Overture," by the young American, William Schuman. It was an excellent concert opener, original and modern but at the same time sounding good to the ear. It is a cheerful piece of music, cleverly written, well integrated, combining the virtues of mature craft and youthful spirit.

The other "novelty" was Tschai-kowsky's Third Symphony. Few music-lovers who dote on the "gloomy" Russian's last three symphonies have ever shown much curiosity about the neglected first three. From the reception last night, Dr. Kindler may have performed a permanent act of resuscitation, locally at least. This symphony has all the Tschai-kowsky earmarks, with less accent on fervid emotion.

WILLKIE LOST, BUT BANK WON'T FOLD AS PROMISED

CHICAGO, Nov. 7—J. W. (100 per cent) Nichols, bank president who warned during the campaign that his bank might close if President Roosevelt was re-elected, said today he would operate "a glorified currency exchange" as a result of Tuesday's vote.

Nichols said the 51-year-old First National Bank of Englewood would close its doors if the Administration embarked on "a wild spending spree" and that he would advise his clients to "bury their currency in their vegetable gardens."

During the campaign Nichols announced his bank was in a position to liquidate on one day's notice.