

Recital by Rachmaninoff

'Unforgettable Experience'

Great moments and unforgettable experiences continue to haunt the mind. Thus Sergei Rachmaninoff's recital Friday night in Montclair High School proved to be one of those too rare occurrences where artistic perfection triumphs over time and place. It was a regulation length concert program, but so absorbingly interpreted and played that it seemed to be all too brief. Announced as an extra concert in the Unity series, it could as well have been billed as an extraordinary concert, for such it was in every sense.

The program itself was not unusual, and except for the artist's own etude-tableau, all of the compositions have long been familiar favorites with pianists the world over, and similar to programs played everywhere. But here that similarity ceased for Mr. Rachmaninoff took them to himself and invested them with such poetic beauty and such a broad sweep of interpretive power that one felt they were really being heard for the first time. In fact, it is entirely possible that Mr. Rach-

maninoff's playing elevated the compositions above even the conception of the composers.

The Bach-Liszt organ prelude and fugue in A minor, which opened the program, and the "Appassionata" sonata of Beethoven were the high points of the concert. Any discussion of the technical phases involved seem inappropriate, for there seemed to be none; the superb simplicity and natural qualities reflected in Mr. Rachmaninoff's playing washed away any consciousness of technique. And what greater tribute can be paid the art of a master pianist. Truth stood revealed in all its splendor and high purpose.

Nothing was glossed over in a trivial manner. The fugue voices stood out in clarity, each following its own destiny, yet completely inte-

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—Adv.