

Crowd Thrills to Unique Genius of Rachmaninoff

PROGRAM

Variations, A major	..... Mozart
Organ Prelude and Fugue, A minor	..... Bach-Liszt
Rondo Capriccioso	..... Mendelssohn
Sonata in F minor, Opus 57 (Appassionata)	..... Beethoven
Allegro assai	..... Rachmaninoff
Allegro ma non troppo	..... Rachmaninoff
Andante con moto	..... Rachmaninoff
Nocturne D flat major	..... Chopin
Two Mazurkas	..... Chopin
Humoresque	..... Rachmaninoff
Prelude G major	..... Rachmaninoff
Etude-Tableau E flat major	..... Rachmaninoff
Sonetto del Petrusca, A flat major	..... Liszt
Rhapsody No. 11	..... Liszt
Waltz in A flat major	..... Chopin
Prelude	..... Rachmaninoff

By ARTHUR BENJAMIN
A great audience accorded Sergei Rachmaninoff, world renowned pianist, an enthusiastic reception at his recital in the Exhibition Gardens, Hastings Park, on Friday evening.

For years I have told my students that the one pianist they must hear is Rachmaninoff. Therefore it was good to see so many young people of 'teen age present at his recital, and I don't doubt that they heard the greatest pianist of the age.

Rachmaninoff is a law unto himself. His tempi are, to say the least, often unusual. He plays a Bach fugue with more license and "Rubato" than one could imagine possible. He adds notes to Chopin; what is more, he alters his own compositions.

His version of his own "Humoresque," which I learned as a youth, is entirely different from the printed copy. Indeed it has been vastly altered, and much for the better.

SUBTLE RHYTHM

In the Beethoven Sonata he played softly where Beethoven marks "forte," and he ignored some typical Beethovenian effects, such as a big "crescendo" followed by a sudden "piano." But what does it matter when such an artist as Rachmaninoff takes it upon himself to do such things?

His sense of brooding anger in the first movement was stirring; and in the last movement, an unerring sense of tone management and rhythm gave us perhaps the greatest moments of the entire evening. And he did not hurry it in the way one so often hears it played nowadays.

He imbued the faded flowers of Mendelssohn's "Rondo Capriccioso" with such charm and such subtle rhythm as to re-awaken its beauty and delicacy.

His playing of the Chopin "D flat major Nocturne" was near perfection, and the two Mazurkas, that in A minor with its silky legato, and that in G major, with its subtlety of rhythm and its charm, were unbelievably beautiful.

DAZZLING TECHNIQUE

In his own composition, the "Humoresque," "Prelude in G major," he reaffirmed the fact that he is one of the most original writers for the pianoforte of his era, and in these what superb playing he gave us.

Rachmaninoff ended his recital with the "Eleventh Rhapsody" of Liszt, and gave a display of a most dazzling technique. But his great technique is always a means to an end.

We were privileged to hear some of the most lovely tone quality and grading, some of the most telling and subtle rhythm throughout this recital that it has ever been one's lot to hear, and again I say Rachmaninoff is the greatest living pianist today. Rarely does one hear such smoldering fires, such controlled emotion.

B.C. Gov't Plans for Rehabilitation

VICTORIA, Feb. 19. — A subcommittee of the provincial cabinet has been set up by Premier Pattullo to study the problem of rehabilitating men now being discharged from the armed forces, in co-operation with federal authorities.

Hon. George S. Pearson, labor minister, is chairman, acting with finance minister John Hart and lands minister A. Wells Gray.

ITU Back With AFL

MIAMI, Feb. 19. — Executive council of the American Federation of Labor and the International Typographical Union's executive board Monday reached an agreement providing for return of the ITU to the AFL.

The agreement would be submitted to the ITU's 80,000 members, and terms would not be published until they have been voted upon.

BROADWAY
TODAY CONT. FROM 2 P.M.
20c to 5; 25c to 7; after 25c, 30c

TWO OUTSTANDING FIRST FEATURES!

GINGER ROGERS
RONALD COLMAN
IN
"LUCKY PARTNERS"
AND
CHARLES LAUGHTON
CAROLE LOMBARD
IN
"THEY KNEW WHAT THEY WANTED"
PLUS
"CHRISTMAS UNDER FIRE"
Also Latest News

STARTS THURSDAY
"LET GEORGE DO IT"
"THREE MEN FROM TEXAS"

ALMA BA-4106
Another Big 3-Unit Show
Wallace Beery—Ann Rutherford
"BAD MAN OF WYOMING"
Brenda and Cobina in
"NIGHT AT EARL CARROLL'S"
Plus "Children From Overseas"

GRANDVIEW
HI-031C
Preston Sturges' Successor
To the "Great McGinty"
"CHRISTMAS IN JULY"
Another Grand Comedy
"DANCING ON A DIME"
March of Time, "Foreign Newsfronts"

KERRISDALE
KE-1125
James Stewart—Rosalind Russell
"NO TIME FOR COMEDY"
Edward G. Robinson in
"DISPATCH FROM REUTERS"
Disney's "Window Cleaners"

KITSILANO
BA-2915