

6400 Hear Rachmaninoff in Very Brilliant Concert

By ARTHUR LOESSER

The second all-star popular concert of the Cleveland Orchestra featured Sergei Rachmaninoff, prince of pianists, as the soloist attraction yesterday afternoon. Approximately 6400 persons attended the event, a huge audience by any standards, yet one which still left a few minor chasms in the great open spaces of the Public Hall.

For his first offering Mr. Rachmaninoff played the Beethoven Concerto No. 1 in C major. Offhand, this seemed a peculiar choice, since the work is hardly more than one of the composer's adolescent efforts, much less a masterpiece. Furthermore, its mildly cheerful babblings would hardly seem compatible with the heavy, romantic

Rachmaninoff's most characteristic vein.

However, the performance swept away all prejudices. Phrases were contoured with a fine classic feeling for rhythm and line, runs were beautifully chiseled and tapered, shadings were exquisitely sensitive. The pianist seemed to glean 10 times as much from the concerto as there really is in it.

Mr. Rachmaninoff's other offering was his own "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini." In reality it is a set of variations on the famous fiddle tune that has been similarly treated by Liszt and Brahms.

The Rachmaninoff version is full of spectacular leaps, riotous chromatic figuration, and contains at least one patch of lushness in the manner of his Second Concerto. Under the composer's fingers

the entire work seemed a breathless orgy of brilliance.

Dr. Rodzinski conducted the orchestra's tricky contribution to the Rachmaninoff work with his usual high skill. He also led the group in enjoyable performances of Beethoven's "Egmont Overture" and Strauss' humorous tone-poem "Till Eulenspiegel." He shared numerous bows and recalls with Rachmaninoff besides being warmly applauded in his own right.

Enthusiasm of the audience was keen and prolonged. Mr. Rachmaninoff finally played one encore. It was a small piece called "Troika," by Tchaikovsky.

Red Cross Aide Killed

CHUNGKING, China, March 3—The United States embassy was notified today that Margaret Kees, 30, of San Francisco, an American Red Cross secretary, was killed Feb. 28 when a truck overturned on the Burma road. Miss Kees was en route to Lashio to work for the Red Cross.