

RACHMANINOFF IS DELIGHT TO 6,000

68-Year-Old Pianist Stars in Orchestra Concert

BY HERBERT ELWELL

The great Russian composer-pianist, Sergei Rachmaninoff, paraded his artistry to the delight of a crowd of about 6,000 in Public Hall yesterday afternoon. The occasion was the second all-star popular concert of the Cleveland Orchestra under Dr. Artur Rodzinski.

The tall, somber Russian, now in his 68th year, appeared as agile, as efficient and as effective as ever in his playing.

Despite his dignified, reserved countenance, there is a kindly twinkle in his eyes. And in his work, along with the resourcefulness of a master, there is the adroitness of a supreme showman, who still communicates exceptional pleasure by his command of beautifully shaped artifice.

Crowd Insists on Encore

Rachmaninoff appeared twice as soloist with the orchestra, performing first the Concerto for Piano No. 1 in C major by Beethoven and later his own Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini. In all this he so charmed his listeners that they insisted upon an encore. This he

obligingly provided with a piece by Tchaikowsky.

His playing, as usual, conveyed an impression of complete assimilation and control. It suggests mastication so thorough as to make digestion effortless, automatic and painless. It has a sense of direction so continuous, so smooth and even in its course as to summon up the vision of a fast moving procession. Articulate to the last degree, it rolls onward in uninterrupted sequence as if possessing the secret of perpetual motion. It creates the illusion of coasting or gliding through space.

Exhibits Showmanship

His own variations employ the kind of orchestral and pianistic effects which produce a maximum of virtuosic display. They move with the same ease and assurance his playing invokes. They are deftly molded, ingeniously contrasted, masterfully organized, and they possess, in fact, everything but intrinsic musical distinction, except in the case of one soft variation where the trumpets insistently repeat a fragment of the theme against piano filigree.

Rodzinski provided skillfully tempered orchestral backgrounds as well as telling interpretations of his own. His version of "Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks" by Strauss was particularly vivid. The program opened with Beethoven's Overture to "Egmont."

PONCA CHIEF'S SON DEAD

PONCA CITY, Okla., March 2—(AP)—Frank Eagle, 71, last surviving son of Chief White Eagle who headed the Ponca Indian Tribe when its members were brought to Oklahoma from Nebraska in 1877, died on the Ponca reservation today.