

PIANIST PLEASES LOCAL AUDIENCE

Rachmaninoff Displays Skill Of The Master Of Many Years

BY W. R. LYNN

A program which was most delightful in its sentimental and tuneful portions was presented here Friday night by Sergei Rachmaninoff, who accentuated his performance with his own interpretation.

Recognized as one of the world's greatest pianists, Rachmaninoff played to the applause of a large audience at the Municipal Auditorium. The concert was an attraction in the Artist Concert Series sponsored by the Birmingham Music Club, now in its thirty-sixth season.

"Serenade" (Schubert-Liszt), "Lullaby" (Tschaikowsky - Rachmaninoff) and "Lilacs," composed by Rachmaninoff himself, stood out for their beauty. His own "Prelude" and Rimski-Korsakov's "Flight of the Bumble Bee" were also masterfully performed.

In the opening selection, "Organ Prelude and Fugue in A minor" (Bach-Liszt), the artist played with such individuality of expression that the composition assumed an aspect of tender feeling instead of offering the customary sort of musical pattern characteristic of Bach. The same sort of emphasis prevailed through the greater part of the second choice, Beethoven's "Sonata in D major, Opus 10, No. 3," of which the second and third movements were the most enjoyable.

The last part of the program, a group of songs arranged for piano, was the most satisfying. In addition to "Lilacs," "Serenade" and "Lullaby," it included "The Trout" (Schubert-Liszt), "Contrabandiste" (Schumann-Tausig), "The Return Home" and "Maiden Wish" (Chopin-Liszt), and "Liebesfreud" (Kreisler-Rachmaninoff).

The third section of the program consisted of two John Field nocturnes, one in C major and the other in F major, and the fourth part of Schumann's "Novelette."