

## ARIAS and ENCORES

Rachmaninoff Plays to Capacity Audience At County Center; Virtuoso Interprets Work of Classicists and Moderns In Varied Program

By JOHN D. CHEQUER

Sergei Rachmaninoff, one of the world's greatest living piano virtuosos, was heard in recital last night at the County Center under Mrs. Julian Olney's management, playing to a sell-out house which exceeded 4,000.

The program, following closely the pattern of his recent Carnegie Hall recital, included works of Mozart, Beethoven and Schumann in the strictly pianistic portion of the program and transcriptions of Bach, Schubert, Chopin, Tschaikowsky, Schumann and Kreisler in the less orthodox second half.

Magnificence hardly describes the work of this consummate craftsman of the piano, rather should his readings be entitled majestic, noble, soul-searching. True, where technical virtuosity and brilliance of pronouncement was called for, those qualities were to be found, but where simplicity of exposition and clarity were preferred as in the opening theme and variations from Mozart's "Sonata in A-Major", and in the Liszt transcriptions of Schubert's "The Trout" and "Serenade" sheer pyrotechnical display was relegated to the background and the works were made to sound with the lucidity and fluency which best suited their unfolding.

The most pretentious work included in the recital was Beethoven's "Sonata, Opus 111," a noble work but wordy, and described by Phillip Hale, the late eminent critic as being afflicted of "jumbolism of much over saying."

One of the most lovely interpretations of the evening was Schumann's "Novelette in F-sharp minor," full of the romantic idiom of the composer's day, with delightful melody, flowing rhythm, and arresting chord progressions; a thrilling experience as translated by the fingers of this master musician.

For sheer virtuosity the Liszt transcriptions of Chopin's two songs, "Maiden Wish" and "The Return Home" and the performer's transcription of Kreisler's "Liebesfreud" were flaming highlights long to be remembered.

The balance of the program, each work deftly delineated, included the recitalist's transcription of the Prelude, Gavotte and Gigue from Bach's "Partita in E-Major for violin alone"; "Lilacs", one of the performer's own songs, transcribed; "Contrabandiste", Schumann - Tausig; "Lullaby", Tschaikowsky-Rach-

maninoff; and for encores a transcription of the American cowboy song "On the Lone Prairie"; "Hopak" by Moussorgsky, and the inevitable "Prelude in C-sharp minor" always demanded of the pianist-composer, who always plays his triplets "precipitamente".

Next to be heard on the Olney series will be The General Platoff Don Cossacks on Friday evening, Dec. 12.

## Tuckahoe Police Unit Starts Active Duty

TUCKAHOE—Tuckahoe's 25 auxiliary policemen, selected by the Tuckahoe Defense Council for special police training under the supervision of the Tuckahoe Police Department, will go on active duty today directing traffic in the area and accompanying police on patrol duty.

The men will be under the supervision of Police Chief Harry Gorman, it was announced by Harry McGuire, chairman of the defense council. The training is in line with a special course, which the men are taking.

The auxiliary force was established so that it might be put into service in the event of an emergency when regular policemen are called out of town.

## Eastchester Firemen See Air-Raid Film

EASTCHESTER—Motion pictures of actual bombings in London were shown to members of the Officers' Club and volunteers of the Eastchester Fire Department last night at the Union Corners Fire House.

The members also heard Ray Woolley, former president of the Fire Chiefs' Emergency Plan of Westchester County, discuss air raids and fire protection.

As a sidelight the members also saw pictures of local scholastic football games, shown by David Dank.

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