

Rachmaninoff Plays Nobly In Mellow, Tender Mood

Famed Pianist Broadens Knowledge Of Audience by Presenting Works Heard Not Too Often

By ALICE EVERSMAN.

The mood of Rachmaninoff is important when he plays. Last evening at Constitution Hall, where the beloved Russian pianist gave his annual recital, he was in a mellow, tender mood and each of the compositions on his program called it forth prominently at some time or other. The result was an evening of music of the loveliest kind, broken only here and there by some more powerful expression.

He caught his audience in a kinship of feeling with the first number, Mozart's "Variations in A Major."

Whether the fact that in a few days will be the anniversary of Mozart's death and thoughts of the composer filled his mind, was responsible for the extreme beauty of his presentation or because he himself was of softer bend, the "Variations" became an elegy. Rachmaninoff is a superb Mozart player and rarely has the transparent, spiritual beauty of his music been so thoroughly visualized as was the case last evening. To hear the Russian play this work alone was worth the price of admission.

At each of his appearances, Rachmaninoff brings works that are not done to death by the average pianist and the broadening of knowledge that his recitals give is one of their attractions. Following the Mozart was Beethoven's last sonata and Schumann's "Novelette in F Sharp Minor." In hardly any of Beethoven's compositions do extremes meet so sharply as in the sonata, with its titanic chords of the first movement and the rare quality of the arietta. These two movements, which comprise the entire work, seem to represent struggle and apotheosis, the former being one of the few stormy moments of the program. Schumann's "Novelette," composed in utter joy in having finally won the woman he loved, is gay and fairy-like and the composer played it con amore.

The remainder of his program was given over to transcriptions, his own of the Bach "Partita" for violin alone and a group of eight songs, three in Rachmaninoff's arrangement. With the exception of the gavotte, the Bach work gained little in its transference to the piano medium. The clear line of the prelude was obscured by too much ornamentation, and the gigue also lost some of its original character.

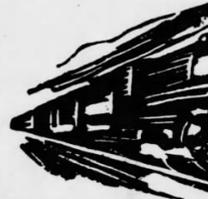
The piano arrangement of his own "Lilacs" and of Tschalkowsky's "Lullaby" and Kreisler's "Liebesfreud" are masterly in the manner in which the melodies remain intact in all their purity in a pianistic frame. This could not be said of Liszt's transcription of Schubert's "The Trout," which lost its smooth, unspoiled quality. Other song arrangements, valuable only because of their original melody, were the Schubert-Liszt "Serenade," Schumann-Tausig's "Contrabandiste," Chopin-Liszt's "Maiden Wish" and "The Return Home."

The selections throughout were highly favorable for complete enjoyment of the superb polyphony, the fresh, fluent runs, the dynamic changes of which Rachmaninoff is master. An exponent of style to the minutest detail, the Russian artist can also underline the romantic when so inclined, as he was yesterday. The recital represented another side of this greatly gifted man and one that had a special appeal to his listeners.

The audience was one of the largest of the season, with several boxes filled with soldiers and sailors.

We had no opportunity to know how much the program was prolonged by encores, but from the reception of each of the numbers, more was undoubtedly asked for.

We Repaired Your Dad's



SELECT YOUR XMAS TRAIN SET NOW FROM OUR BIG

Superior Lock & Electric Co.—THE place to buy your LIONEL TRAIN, PARTS and ACCESSORIES. 32 years in business is your protection!

TRA...
Sure We Will Turn in your old LIONEL or Flyer Train

Lionel and "American Flyer"

You must see our Lionel Specials.

A Word About Them
Here you can pick up Lionel and engines at half price and sometimes models and trade-ins. All equipment tested. The idea is not new—remember

SUPERIOR LOCK
1410 L ST. N.W. Phon
FREE PARKING

BUICK BUILDS FOR DEFENSE



Our assignment
Building Pratt & Whitney
out-of-hand aircraft
engines for defense war.