

Rachmaninoff Again Proves Self Giant Of Piano World

By MOLLY MARSHALL

A gigantic figure in the pianistic world appeared here last night when Sergei Rachmaninoff played before the Fresno Musical Club in the Fox Wilson Theater. The great 68 year old Russian stands supreme in the art of piano playing, and the years leave no trace on the pure beauty of his technique and the loveliness of his tone quality.

Rachmaninoff wears the mantle of greatness across his shoulders as easily as he plays. As an interpreter of the Beethoven Sonata Appassionata, Rachmaninoff has no equal. He played this work of art with an almost matchless beauty of tone.

Chopin, Schubert, Mozart and Liszt were included on Rachmaninoff's program and further proved the consummate grace of his style. At times there was an exquisite softness in his playing and there never was a suggestion of effort in his complete mastery of the keys, even in his magnificent forte passage.

Rachmaninoff has reached the heights of artistic perfection. With an exquisite sense of style, he passes from one great master to the other and always he is the virtuoso. His playing may be compared to cut gems; so easily does he achieve perfection. Rachmaninoff was the bright particular star we went to hear last night. Beautiful and distinctive, the memory of his playing will live with us forever.

It is said that the famous Russian believes a composer never is right in estimating his own works. Having written compositions which have gained the recognition of the world, Rachmaninoff does not know which he likes the best. He included, however, three of his own compositions on his program last night, Humoresque, Daisies and Oriental Sketch. For his last encore

he played the famous Prelude In C sharp minor.

Rachmaninoff's concert provided one of the major thrills of the season and he gave generously of his great gift. He was the master musician playing upon the heart-strings of his listeners. The celebrated pupil of Tschaikowsky and Arensky is without a peer and holds a unique place among the very few musical immortals.

Machine Tools Survey Ordered In Local Schools

Herman A. Mattern, Fresno district manager of the division of contract distribution of the War Production Board, said today he has been directed to make a survey of machine tool facilities in all high school and junior college shops in the district.

Mattern, formerly WPB industrial specialist in the district stretching from the San Francisco Bay to the Oregon border, took charge of the Fresno office this week. His district reaches from Merced to the Tehachapi.

He said he has not been informed whether the use of high school