

PAGE EIGHT

Rachmaninoff Thrills Audience

Last night another name on the roll of the world's greatest artists was added to those which have been brought to Elgin through Civic Music Service, Inc., when Sergei Rachmaninoff, renowned Russian pianist, composer and conductor played to a capacity house at the First Methodist church.

Whether the interest of the audience centered in Rachmaninoff as an artist only, since his name is one of almost legendary fame, or whether the interest was intensified because of the valiant struggle in which his fellow countrymen are engaged, is a matter of speculation. But certain it is that from the moment he appeared on the concert platform until he left it at the close of a brilliantly performed program, he was given the tribute of an unusual silence that was even more impressive than the ovation of applause which followed his numbers.

Plays Favored Composition.

The program consisted entirely of Chopin, Rachmaninoff and Liszt compositions and at the end, after insistent demands for encores, the artist played what he knew everyone wanted to hear, his own famous "C Sharp Minor Prelude". When asked if he has any special feeling as to how other pianists should play his compositions Rachmaninoff said, "To be quite honest, no. I know that a composer is supposed to have a definite feeling about it and I know just how I would play them myself, but any really fine pianist is justified in finding his own interpretation and putting his own personality into the rendering of a composition. And it is interesting at times, to see how some other pianist will give a piece you have written yourself, an entirely different musical color, or present it from an angle quite different from your own."

However, Rachmaninoff's name has become revered throughout the world and his compositions have taken their place along with the masterpieces of other days, so his interpretations, whether of his own or the works of other composers, were particularly valuable to the great number of students who are members of the Fox Valley Civic Music Assn. this year and who crowded the galleries and overflowed into the choir loft.

Knight Here Dec. 16.

His dignity and serious expression is rather awe-inspiring but the warmth and beauty of his playing soon dispels all such feeling and one realizes that he spoke the truth when he said, "I am myself only in music; music is enough for a whole lifetime—but a lifetime is not enough for music." He is living up to that belief for he is a man of nearly 70 years and one feels when listening to the subtleties of his shading and the brilliance of his technical gifts that a lifetime of rich experience and singleness of purpose has gone into their perfection.

A. C. Leonard, president of the local association announced at the beginning of the evening that Felix Knight, tenor soloist, who will give the next concert in this course, has postponed the date from Dec. 9 to Dec. 16.

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