

# THROUGH GIVES OVATION TO SYMPHONY

By J. FRED LISSFELT

The second concert of the Pittsburgh Symphony Society drew a "standing-room-only" house to



Mr. Lissfelt

Syria Mosque last night and an ovation was in order for Modarelli and his men as well as the solo-pianist Rachmaninoff.

Beeethoven's "Leonore" overture No. 3, the C minor Concerto and the A Minor Symphony of Rachmaninoff made a well-knit program, and the greatest interest naturally centered in the new symphony played here for the first time, and only the third time in America.

## NOT TOO NATIONAL

This new work is made on conventional symphonic lines, the middle movement including subject matter which can be called "slow movement and scherzo."

On first hearing I can recall moods that suggest the Slav, yet my general impression remains that it is not too strongly national. The instrumentation is never sensational, indeed it is of an older generation, and though skillful percussion effects and unconventional rhythms abound, the symphony is not of today.

The adagio sings sonorously and the capricious interlude is attractive. The last movement is reminiscent of carnival scenes in the Russian ballet style, even the fugato suggests the interlacing steps of the chorus and many an episode is the pas seul of the solo dancer. It is all likeable music.

## INSPIRED PERFORMANCE

Modarelli gave it a whole-hearted and vigorous reading, one of the most inspired performances from the orchestra in a long while.

Rachmaninoff played his second concerto in the most effortless and elastic manner of any player known. It was a lesson to the younger generation of pianopounders who whack the instrument out of tune after the first 15 minutes and then speak of the grand manner.

Here it was in all its simplicity, without thought of school; it was piano playing as music par excellence, with all the sonority, delicacy and nuance of which the instrument is capable. A well-deserved storm of approval followed the concerto and after many recalls the composer at last gave his C sharp Minor Prelude as encore.