

HEARERS CHARMED BY RACHMANINOFF

Eminent Russian Com-
poser-Pianist Greeted
by Fervent Applause

By Austin Boyle

Sergei Rachmaninoff, eminent and abidingly popular composer-pianist, presented a program Saturday night in Municipal Auditorium which had a brilliance and a charm approached by few others ever given here. The wonderful clarity and control of tone moved a large audience to extreme enthusiasm, and applause was fervent and prolonged.

In the pianist's eloquence was contained all the high musical qualities associated with his name. In splendid form, his technical facility was amazing as ever, while deeply significant treatment was accorded every number. Eloquence was tempered by a certain austerity that appeared to lend added firmness and vigor. Utter faithfulness to the composers accompanied his superb voicing of their melodies.

There was little doubt, for instance, but that nearly everyone present felt Rachmaninoff is one of the most completely satisfactory interpreters of Chopin ever to be heard.

The distinguished Russian opened his program with the Bach-Liszt Fantasia and Fugue in G minor. Then came the Beethoven Sonata No. 3, affording Rachmaninoff opportunity to display his full powers as an artist who blends analysis with feeling.

In faultless style, without massing his tonal effects to the great degree favored by many other performers, the pianist built up a great mosaic of musical structure, proportioned beautifully and slighting no single detail.

In the Chopin group that followed, Rachmaninoff was at his gleaming best. The composer was represented by the C minor polonaise, D flat nocturne, a mazurka in F minor and a rondo, Opus 16. Execution was a marvel of tonal niceties, and the atmospheric qualities conveyed had the truth of profound conception.

The second half of the program opened with three selections from the pianist's own "Etudes Tableaux." These romantic pieces were played with delightful charm.

The clarity and fluency which are among his highest attributes again were displayed in "Sonnetto del Petrarca, No. 2," by Liszt.

Concluding numbers were the Wagner "Magic Fire" number arranged by Brassin, and the Paganini-Liszt "Etude." The amazing agility of the Rachmaninoff keyboard technique and his beautiful tone control delighted the audience in the "Magic

Detectives Find \$10,000 Alleged Loot from Shops

Five Women Held Pending
Inquiry Into Reported
Ring

Five women were being held in custody here Saturday night pending investigation by detectives of the operations of an alleged ring of shoplifters which has been operating here and in Birmingham, Ala.

Detectives Saturday also seized a quantity of allegedly stolen women's apparel from a room at 318 Bourbon street, the value of which was estimated by Chief of Detectives John J. Grosch at \$10,000.

"The room has been used as a 'warehouse' by the shoplifting ring," Chief Grosch said.

Chief Grosch announced he had been informed of the arrest Saturday in Birmingham of three women who, he said, have been exchanging stolen apparel with the local "ring" for the past several months. Two of the women arrested in Birmingham, he said, are the mothers of two of the five women being held here, all of whom are said to be from Birmingham.

Several of the five women, after coming to New Orleans, allegedly obtained positions as saleswomen in clothing stores and through this

Fire" music. For encore, the inevitable Prelude in C sharp minor, which Rachmaninoff does not deny he is heartily tired of playing, was performed with all his magic.

The concert was presented by the Philharmonic Society for the benefit of its scholarship fund.

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