

# Rachmaninoff Piano Concert Wins Acclaim

By Susie Aubrey Smith

Sergei Rachmaninoff, Russian composer, pianist and conductor, who played to one of the largest audiences and certainly to the most enthusiastic of the season Friday night at the Paramount theatre, exhibited to Portland music patrons a complete perfection in two of his chosen lines of musicianship.

He interpreted in superb style a program made up of classics in the field of piano music, and included two of his own compositions. Late comers were a disturbing factor in the early part of the concert, but after the first sonata of the Scarlatti group, music lovers could concentrate their attention on the artist.

So sure and fine is Rachmaninoff's art, that one is scarcely conscious of the necessary musical mechanics while he is playing. His finger technique is amazingly clear and facile; his tone is a marvel of perfection, and his pedaling is an art in itself. At every moment during his program he had complete command of all his artistic resources.

## Chopin Sonata Appeals

He achieved the pyrotechnics of Liszt as easily as he did the melodic simplicity of Gluck—or should it be put the other way around? He seems to have a special affinity for Gluck, and practically always includes some of this composer's music on his programs, last night's piece being a "Melodie."

For the musicians in the audience, the Chopin sonata in B minor, opus 58, was probably the high point of the concert. Certainly this was Chopin as one has always hoped to hear him played—with all of his poetic melancholy and fragile fire. To many music patrons, the big moment was Rachmaninoff's own Prelude in C sharp minor, which he seldom programs any more, but which he will always give as an encore if sufficient applause is forthcoming. Two other compositions of his were included in his program—a lovely little piece called "Daisies" and an oriental sketch that proved colorful and fascinating. The pianist gave also an interesting arrangement of his of a favorite Bach prelude.

## Encores Kept Until Close

It was a big program, but it did not seem long, perhaps because Rachmaninoff never leaves the stage between numbers and thus cuts off the time most artists spend in comings and goings. Besides the numbers already noted, the pianist played a fantasy by Haydn; three charming Scarlatti sonatas; and, at the end, a Liszt group, including the

"Liebestraum," which he made a thing of haunting beauty.

Although the applause was exceptionally enthusiastic, Rachmaninoff gave no encores until the close of his program, when he returned to the stage several times, among his extras being his prelude and a Chopin waltz. Not until the stage lights were dimmed did his audience cease applauding and hoping for more of his music.

The eminent Russian was presented to Portland on the Paramount Concert series.

# Political Row Wrecks Tokyo Government

Tokyo, Jan. 23.—(AP)—Japan's parliamentary political parties overthrew the cabinet of Premier Koki Hirota today, forcing the government to resign under their bitter attacks against the army.

The premier, unable to reach a compromise between the angry military leaders and the political parties, presented the cabinet's mass resignation to Emperor Hirohito

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