

Russe Artist In Vivid Recital

By HARRY MINES

The inscrutable Rachmaninoff, whose personality continues to be as stern and rockbound and terrifying as ever, offered a brilliant recital last evening before a packed house in the Philharmonic Auditorium.

It has been some time since the distinguished Russe pianist has performed in this city. Local music lovers came out in droves to welcome him. Just how Rachmaninoff felt about his audience in turn couldn't be determined.

Suffice to say he had to play against terrific odds, for practically everyone present (and this is hardly an exaggeration) spent a good deal of the time coughing, snorting and wheezing.

"It's the flu epidemic, you know," kindly explained a sweet young thing to her boy friend during the intermission, evidently trying to explain why the audience was so noisy.

But from Rachmaninoff there was not a word. He merely stared across the "foots" in stony silence, his narrow slits of eyes fixed on nothing in particular, his face betraying no emotion.

But what a performance he gave!

In a program consisting of Bach, Beethoven, Wagner, Chopin, Liszt and a few of his own works, Rachmaninoff displayed thorough artistry at the keyboard. He displayed magnificent tone, flair and sharpness in his delineations.

The pianist will take another bow under the L. E. Behymer banner Saturday afternoon presenting an entirely different bill.