

Rachmaninoff Plays

Rachmaninoff's magnificent art was revealed to a Sunday afternoon audience in a program less deserving of the attention of so great an artist than was that of Friday. But it was no less enthusiastically received by an audience which appreciated the fineness of his playing.

Seldom does a transcription justify itself, but Rachmaninoff's arrangement of a Bach Prelude originally written for solo violin was the exception which proved the rule. It needed no justification beyond the artist's playing of it.

Rachmaninoff makes the most of every melody. He builds his tonal structures in curves, not planes. And the deft fleetness with which he brings forth rippling runs in dynamic crescendi (as in Scarlatti's E Minor Sonata, for instance) is apt to be even more breath-taking than the dramatic brilliance with which he imbues the virtuoso stuff. But Rachmaninoff is much more than an executant. He is a creative artist who stands apart from all others for the beauty, power and grandeur of his musical concepts as expressed in tone.