

# Audience Pays Its Homage To Peerless Rachmaninoff

By STAFF REVIEWER

A great pianist visited Stanford last night and received the homage of an audience that all but filled the basketball pavilion.

Sergei Rachmaninoff is a consummate artist, with few peers in the world today. Of that there can be little doubt.

There is no pose about the man—no attempt to startle or impress. His bearing is simple, and his manner at the piano unostentatious. But there is something arresting about the face of this gaunt giant with the somber expression and half-closed eyes, as if some poignant sadness were oppressing him. Some might call him "romantic."

And perhaps he is a romanticist, though certainly not in the traditional sense. His head is not closely cropped for nothing.

The point was illustrated in his playing of Liszt, particularly the Rhapsodie No. 12. All the thunders, contrasting colors and rhythms were there, but the style was direct, restrained, albeit marvellously sensitive. It was Liszt without being Lisztian, if such an expression may be risked.

Rachmaninoff is one who has

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seen life, who as a responsive being knows its brutalities, yet he is mellow, wise with the wisdom of years, vital and youthful in his devotion to a high idealism in art.

His work reflects a full-blown maturity, an understanding tinged with reflection, an exquisite sense of nuance and finish, coupled with a technical equipment that is truly monumental, but never exploited for itself.

Any number on his program could be cited in illustration. The Chopin Nocturne in F major and the Tarantelle revealed various aspects of his genius, the one being delicately thoughtful, and the other strong, abrupt, even brutal. His effective use of the singing tone was pointed in the "Fairy Tale," a fine creation of Medtner. Rachmaninoff's own Prelude in G major might be instanced to show what beauty he can instill into a trill, and the Allegretto of Beethoven's Sonata in D minor is an apt case for bringing out his prowess in the employment of a contrast for effect. But for those who heard the concert it is unnecessary to go into detail. They lived through an experience not soon to be forgotten.

The Associated Students of Stanford University will present Wilbur Evans on March 11 as their next attraction on the artist series.