

Crowd Of 5,000 Hears Rachmaninoff Concert

By Kenneth N. Westerman

Sergei Rachmaninoff, the most eminent living Russian composer, conductor and pianist, opened the 59th annual Choral Union concert series in Hill auditorium Wednesday night, playing to a capacity audience of more than 5,000, which filled every available seat and packed the stage.

The "nobility, directness, fire and strength" which characterize his compositions are inherent in his playing as well, and his program of Liszt, Bach, Chopin, Debussy and his own compositions was delightful and keenly interesting. Under the playing of a master of Rachmaninoff's ability, the piano becomes an instrument of emotions as well as techniques, and every selection from the "Weeping, Plaints, Sorrows and Fears" of the first Liszt number to the rollicking "Dance of the Gnomes" was unique in its own emotional content.

The technically superb work in Chopin's "Scherzo," the exquisite interpretation of Debussy's "Claire de Lune" and the masterful playing of Liszt's "Voices of the Woods" and "Dance of the Gnomes" were most outstanding to the writer.

Three Encores

For an encore to the first part of the program he played a Chopin "Waltz in A Flat Major," while at the end of the concert, at the enthusiastic request of the people on the stage, he played his famous "C Minor Prelude," which was followed by "The Flight of the Bumble Bee" by Rimski-Korsakov.

It is hard for most of us to realize that probably in the future Rachmaninoff will be known more and more as a composer than as a performer, and that his compositions which cover all fields of orchestral, pianoforte, chamber music, vocal and operatic music will become better known as his memory as a performer fades.

Although a resident of the United States for nearly 20 years, his piano music is best known here, but in Europe his operas, symphonies and vocal music are steadily

growing in popularity and such vocal numbers as "Harvest of Sorrow," frequently heard at English concerts and festivals, and the chorus and orchestral arrangement of Edgar Allen Poe's "The Bells" are worthy to be included in our repertoire of concert and festival performance.

Quiet and stately in bearing, full of fire and vigor in interpretations, Rachmaninoff's personality as a performer belies his more than 60 years. As he continues to curtail his public appearances, we hope that Ann Arbor will long remain on his list of concerts.

Prizes Awarded By Camera Club

Jan VandenBroek received first prize in the monthly print contest conducted by the Ann Arbor Camera club, it was announced at the meeting of the club last night.

Gordon Hunt and Dr. Edward Kline placed second and third, respectively. A loan exhibit of photographs from the Baltimore Camera club was shown, as well as the prize winning prints of the contest held in conjunction with the Toledo Camera club.

Night scenes is the assignment for the next print contest, which is to be held Nov. 24, and the next meeting of the club will be Wednesday, Nov. 10. Ralph E. Bennett will talk on "Chemistry of Photography" at that time, and an illustrated talk on "Ideas For Photographic Christmas Cards" will be given by Wesley Goodale.

Lightning was thought to be zig-zag until photography proved that the "corners" were rounded.

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