

Rachmaninoff Gives Concert Before Throng

County Center Is Jammed as Famous Composer-Pianist Appears.

Sergei Rachmaninoff, world-famous composer-pianist, returned to the County Center last night to be hailed again by a packed house as a ranking artist among virtuosos of the present day. His appearance as the second artist attraction on this, the eighth season of concerts presented by Mrs. Julian Olney, marked his first appearance in Westchester since four years ago.

Rachmaninoff displayed immense technical resourcefulness.

The outstanding quality of Rachmaninoff's playing was not, however, only digital facility. His program presented five distinct schools and required a deep and comprehensive sensitivity to each, in order that the true character of the works might be delineated.

The program opened with "Weeping, Complaints, Sorrows, Fears," a prelude by Franz Liszt, based upon "Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen," a church-cantata by Bach, which was followed by Bach's "Italian Concerto."

The peculiar harpsichordal percussiveness, uniquely Bachian, was meticulously represented in these two works — without embellishment in the first instance, and in boldness of outline and clarity and fluency of motion, after the Italian style, in the second.

Beethoven's "Sonata Opus 31, No. 2, in D-Minor" and Chopin's "Scherzo in C-Sharp Minor" concluded the first half of the program.

The second half opened with "Suite Bergamasque" by Debussy followed by Rachmaninoff's own "Prelude" and "Oriental Sketch." The formal program closed with two short works by Liszt — "Voices of the Woods" and "Dance of the Gnomes."

Rachmaninoff then thrilled the audience with three encores.