

Rachmaninoff Is Applauded By Huge Atlanta Audience

BY FRANK DANIEL

Before an audience which packed the Fox Theater and responded appreciatively and enthusiastically to his brilliant virtuosity and his magnificent interpretations. Sergi Rachmaninoff offered Thursday evening a program of piano music in the great tradition; and in one respect he exceeded the achievements of his distinguished predecessors, for neither Liszt nor Rubinstein nor Leschetizky could ever boast that, to make way for them, Shirley Temple was ousted. Yet the Fox Theater removed the newest gyrations of the dimpled darling from its screen for the occasion, and no doubt profited thereby. Let us hope Atlanta's own Jane Withers hears about it.

Rachmaninoff opened his program with Liszt's Prelude after Bach, lugubriously called "Weeping, Plaints, Sorrows, Fears," which was as melancholy as it was unfamiliar, and a more dignified recital of woe than we are likely to encounter off the keyboard.

Two of the important numbers on the program were visitors' tributes to Italy—Bach's Italian Concerto and, following the intermission, Debussy's Suite Bergamasque.

In both instances Rachmaninoff joined these travelers from the north in celebrating, in contrasting styles, the beauties of the sunlit Italian countryside, and its dancing, singing peasants. Neither Bach nor Debussy seems to have prognosticated Mussolini. Rachmaninoff's playing of both Bach, the father of modern music in the widest sense of the word modern, and of Debussy, a father in another sense, are masterly, and his performance Thursday evening was worthy of his renown.

Likewise he brought to his Chopin group freshness of viewpoint and dazzling technical resources. He played the Nocturne in F Major, the Impromptu in A Flat,

the Mazurka, Op. 63, No. 2; in Valse in a Flat, No. 42, and the Scherzo in C Sharp Minor.

After the exquisiteness of Debussy, Rachmaninoff played his own Prelude in C Sharp Minor, so long abused for its Byronic sentiments that the hearer responded with a sort of protective sympathy, finding the composer's version both straightforward and poetic.

Two Liszt pieces, "Voices of the Woods" and "Dance of the Gnomes," had their difficulties overcome expertly and their beauties emphasized at Rachmaninoff's hands. Encores were Schubert's "Wandering," Rachmaninoff's arrangement of Moussorgsky's "Hopak," and his arrangement of Rimsky-Korsakoff's "Flight of the Bumble Bee"—a flight which is becoming almost as regular as that any air line can boast.

Elsberry-Tomlin

Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Tomlin announce the marriage of their daughter, Lucy Chryslita Tomlin, to Robert B. Elsberry, which was solemnized September 22.

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