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RACHMANINOFF THRILLS AGAIN

Displays Old Artistry to Appreciative Audience at Music Hall

By MILTON WIDDER

A thrilling piano recital, throbbing with vitality and shining with consummate artistry, was the gift of Sergei Rachmaninoff, the great Russian composer-pianist, to the comfortably filled Public Music Hall last night.

It is a difficult task for so great an artist as Rachmaninoff, whose very name conjures in the minds of his public the pinnacle of musical greatness, to measure up year after year to what is expected of him. Yet Rachmaninoff fulfills these expectations at all times.

He is a complete master of his art. When he sits before those black and white keys he is an orchestra in one man. His strong, deft fingers bring forth thundering sonorities, or faint

pianissimos, as he wills. At times he is a poet, making the piano strings sing out the beauties of a composition. At other times he is a vengeful philosopher and all-powerful.

It was in Beethoven's Sonata Op. 81 that the master displayed his fabulous talents to the utmost. The playing of that work showed that years have mellowed Rachmaninoff to a degree of artistry that will be talked of with reverence by those who heard him. The 12 Chopin Preludes, (from the series of 24) began harshly, but the pianist later recaptured the poetic beauties intended by the Polish composer.

His own composition, the G Major Prelude, as well as the Schubert op. "Improvisu" and "Rondo," and two Franz Liszt works, were in a lighter vein and more warmly applauded by a grateful audience.

Many in the audience remarked

that this "is the first time" they've seen Rachmaninoff smile. The usually stone-cold appearance of the pianist was smoothed with a benef-

icence last night which manifested him closer to his awe-struck listener in a slight smile that brought tenses.

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