

Rachmaninoff's Playing Replete With Rich Musical Perspectives

BY MARJORY M. FISHER

The News Music Editor

Not since Sergei Rachmaninoff last played here have we heard piano playing so replete with rich human and equally rich musical perspectives as that which the great Russian artist gave a capacity audience in the War Memorial Opera House last night. Nor, indeed, do we hear many pianists who have such a diversity of tonal coloring throughout the entire dynamic compass.

Rameau's "Variations," Bach's "Tocatta" in E minor, Beethoven's Sonata opus 81, Schubert's "Impromptu and "Rondo," Rachmaninoff's own G major Prelude, 12 Chopin Preludes and Liszt's "Sonnetto del Petrarca" and "Tarantella" comprised the scheduled program, and there were, of course, the usual number of encores including "the" Rachmaninoff Prelude which is to Rachmaninoff what "Liebesfreud" is to Kreisler.

Especially in the Beethoven Sonata was Rachmaninoff heard at his finest. He played it as if it were an expression of personal reverie—giving it a rich emotional expression fully in accord with the descriptive titles of the three movements—"Les adieux," "L'Absence" and "Le retour." Pianistically, it proved a masterpiece of tonal coloring.

There are as many ways of playing Chopin as there are pianists who attempt his works. Rachmaninoff

de-sentimentalized the Preludes and this reviewer liked his concept of them. They sounded fresh and un-hackneyed. But persons behind us did not like them—exclaiming much too audibly their disapproval and their opinion. "He does all kinds of funny things to them." But they did concede that one was "pretty good." So far as this reviewer is concerned, it is better to hear Rachmaninoff "do funny things" than to hear most pianists play in an orthodox manner!

Rachmaninoff also makes Liszt sound almost modern, injecting fresh life into scores which too often sound like museum pieces. Fortunate are those who will hear his second program on Sunday afternoon.

REAL ESTATE

Prepared

The San Francisco

Week ending	Sales*	Mortgages	
		No	Value
Nov. 16 (five days) ..	135	241	\$ 1.14
Previous week	159	238	1.30
October, 1938	818	1,226	8.80
October, 1937	746	1,184	6.80
Year to date	7,744	13,342	93.50
Totals, 1937	9,369	15,852	106.80

*Shows only bona fide sales, exclusively within a family.

**Shows new construction only, excluding Municipal, State and Federal