

Sergei Rachmaninoff Delights Throng

BY ISABEL MORSE JONES

Sergei Vassilievitch Rachmaninoff played for nearly 3000 persons in the Philharmonic Auditorium last night. Extra seats were put in the pit and the galleries were packed with students.

The program was built like the history of the instrument he honors. It began with the precious harpsichordist, Rameau. He kept these Variations in as small a frame as he could, being Rachmaninoff. But there was no simulation of the plucked instrument tone with which an Iturbi plays when he chooses Scarlatti, Couperin or Rameau.

The Bach Toccata in E Minor, played with a grandeur of piano tone and temperament that made it almost a contemporary, followed Rameau with little pause. It was a human, erratic Bach. There was nothing mechanical about it. Next came the Beethoven "Les Adieux" Sonata. Rachmaninoff plays Beethoven with a Russian flair for dramatic, dynamic contrast. The pedaling was a lesson to all pianists. This was program music without exaggeration.

The Romanticists had a more personal interpretation. Schu-

bert's Impromptu, one of the finest works for piano in small form included in traditional repertoire, was passed over lightly. The Rondo by the same composer, naïve and childlike as it is, was given with great attention to detail.

The second half of the concert list continued the history. Rachmaninoff himself was rightly classed with that earlier genius, Chopin, and Franz Liszt. Rachmaninoff's Prelude in G Major, well proportioned as all his compositions are, aroused enthusiasm and the 12 Preludes by Chopin were given the most earnest attention by the audience. It was a lavish and irides-

cent shower of major and minor preludes that the master pianist bestowed.

The concert closed with the Sonnetto del Petrarca and the Tarantella, Venezia e Napoli." The first encore was one of the rarer Chopin Mazurkas.

Noble Signed by Earl Carroll

Ray Noble and his orchestra have been signed by Earl Carroll for his new amusement project, which will open Christmas night in Hollywood.

