

MUSIC GOES TO HEART, NOT HEAD, SAYS RACHMANINOFF; IN CONCERT HERE TONIGHT

"Music goes to the heart, not to the head," said Sergei Rachmaninoff, celebrated Russian pianist, as he talked to an interviewer in his hotel room this morning, "and the one who has more heart will more appreciate."

And, turning his expressive gray eyes toward his interviewer, he added, "Do you not think so."

That sums up the musical creed of the pianist who is to play in Abilene for the first time when he appears at the Simmons university auditorium this evening at 8 o'clock.

"Modern music?" He made a deprecatory gesture. "To me it is the same as the Bolsheviki. Time will come when there will be a reaction—I hope."

His large powerful fingers playing idly with a cigarette holder, his long legs crossed in repose, the tall, slender, but large and powerful Russian talked interestedly and graciously. He speaks with a very pronounced accent and sometimes gropes for the English word to express his idea. He was seated at

Here Tonight



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the piano stool in the obscurity of his room, where he had been practicing for more than two hours.

"Do you think America has become more appreciative of music within the past fifteen years?" he was asked.

"Oh, yes," he answered promptly. "I have noticed it myself as I play my concerts."

"Is this due to the musical education promoted by schools?"

He pondered. "I don't know. I think more to the fact that Americans have been able to hear the world's best musicians and hear them often. Take New York—the best symphony orchestras in the world are there."

"Do you think the depression has affected or will retard this musical interest?"

"Now, this depression, I do not understand it.

"The concert halls are not as full as they were. Still, I go to a musical show or a movie and they are crowded. I wonder if it is the financial depression or an art depression."

When questioned about college audiences, he said that he saw no difference in them and general audiences.

"My audiences are all kind to me," he said. "I do not think that I get better response at girls' colleges than at boys. Maybe it is because your men are more interested in sport—or maybe the women have the bigger heart. Music goes to the heart, you know, and the one who has more heart appreciates it more."

An aristocrat in birth and bearing, Rachmaninoff is also an aristocrat in music.

"This modern music I do not understand. Sometimes I wonder—I who have all my life given to music, I do not understand modern music. Yet someone sits by me who never gave study to music and he understands it perfectly." He smiled slyly. "Sometimes I get suspicious. Maybe it is because modern music is—what you say—fashionable." His gray eyes narrowed slightly. "But I never go in for fashions."

Rachmaninoff will play the famous C-Sharp Minor Prelude tonight, he said in answer to a question about it. "I know they like it," he explained, "and I play it." He also denied that the bells of Russia inspired the opening chords of the famous composition.

The pianist and his party arrived in Abilene last night from Houston where he had played Tuesday night. He played in San Antonio Monday night. He will go from here to Oklahoma City. He was scheduled in only three Texas cities on this tour which is carrying him across the continent.

Tickets will remain on sale at Weeks until 6 this afternoon.