

Rachmaninoff, Here Tonight for Concert, Has Sense of Humor

Once Turned Point of Joke
on Paderewski in Res-
taurant.

Though Sergei Rachmaninoff, who makes his one St. Louis appearance of the year when presented in recital at the Odeon tonight by the Cueny Concert direction, was heralded on the musical firmament by tragic chords of his early compositions and from his grave, austere and aristocratic bearing on the concert platform, is regarded as the most silent of men, he is neither without humor nor without words. He is happy to talk about music with those who understand music and he is quick to turn the point of a joke—as Paderewski once found to his cost.

Those two geniuses of the piano once entered a restaurant on the Riviera together. The leader of the cafe orchestra caught a glimpse of Rachmaninoff's towering form at a table, rapped for attention and launched into the chords of the C Minor Prelude.

The Last Laugh.

Rachmaninoff's discomfiture at hearing this youthful and often-repeated work delighted Paderewski. At the close the great Pole grinned and applauded so loudly in his efforts to have it repeated that the orchestra leader for the first time noted Paderewski was present. With another smart rap on his desk he assented to the encore and struck up Paderewski's Minuet. Rachmaninoff had his chance. He applauded so long and loudly that every head in the restaurant turned to stare at the pianistic, but for that time impolitic, Pole.

Composed Symphonies.

Rachmaninoff, the composer, has contributed two symphonies, a choral symphony, "The Bells," four concertos for piano and orchestra and two famous tone poems to the symphony orchestra repertory. He has also composed a successful opera, "Aleko," many choral pieces and many minor works for piano.

On tonight's program he will include two of his own preludes and his transcription of Bach's E major sonata, originally for violin. He is one of the greatest interpreters as well as one of the greatest virtuosos of today. The range of his interpretation is suggested by the Beethoven sonata opus 31, No. 2, created in the most tragic period of Beethoven's life and struck a new path for him in music and confirmed by the delicate charm and gay moods of the Debussy "Children's Corner" suite. The program also includes a Schubert Ronéo, a Chopin group, a Borodine Scherzo and one of the greatest virtuoso works for piano, Tausig's version of Weber's "Invitation to the Waltz."

Program for Tonight.

The complete program is:

- I.
Sonata in D minor, Opus 31, No. 2..... Beethoven
Allegro.
Adagio.
Allegretto.
- II.
Sonata in E major (originally for violin)..... Bach
(Transcribed by Rachmaninoff.)
Prelude.
Gavotte.
Gigue.
- III.
Rondo in D major..... Schubert
- IV.
(a) Valse..... Chopin
(b) Nocturne..... Chopin
(c) Ballade..... Chopin
Intermission.
- V.
Suite: "The Children's Corner"..... Debussy
Docto Gradum ad Parnassum.
Serenade of the Doll.
The Little Shepherd.
Gollwog's Cake-Walk.
- VI.
Two Preludes..... Rachmaninoff
- VII.
Scherzo..... Borodine
- VIII.
"Invitation to the Dance"..... Weber-Tausig

1 BUTTON LYING LEAVES