

Great Pianist Goes in for Quiet Charm and Powerful Technique

BY WALTER D. HICKMAN

There was a certain quiet charm to the Rachmaninoff recital at the Murat yesterday afternoon that some of his previous concerts here have lacked.

The great pianist's program seemed to reflect the quiet and meditative mood. He seemed to aim at great melodious beauty expressed by his faultless technique.

Rachmaninoff started his quiet mood with Mozart's "Sonata No. 14" and the piano became more definite when his second group included two of Scarlatti's sonatas.

In the sonata, we again became acquainted with that definite broad tone that this man can create. As we all know Rachmaninoff is not a sensationalist. He has a fixed expression and by looking at him, one could not determine the mood he is trying to create. His piano alone reflects the mood.

Then in Schumann's "Carnaval," we had the strong definite tone pictures only to give way to that quiet, sort of personal charm that Rachmaninoff seems to love to create at this time.

In the Schumann part of his program there was plenty of technical fireworks, but he seemed to caress the more quiet passages with a charm that brought new and greater applause for the artist.

The audience caught the spirit of the program starting with Mozart and terminating with Kreisler-Rachmaninoff's "Liebesfreud." Even the title of this composition seemed to reflect the mood of the pianist.

But charm as well as technical perfection was lavished all over the

Chopin group which included "Barcarolle," which is always an audience favorite in the hands of Rachmaninoff; "Valse" and "Ballade."

Never have I discovered such a desire on the part of Rachmaninoff for such quiet charm. There was little of the hard and harsh undertones, but the great artistry of the man seemed to blend every tone picture into a soothing and melodious tapestry.

Probably a certain quiet has come into the life of this man at this time and he seems to desire to create a restful mood of melody. He can excite you with his perfect technique just as he has done in the past but you now find that great element of charm, soothing charm, in his programs at this time.

He played his entire program without any encores until he had finished his stated groups. Then he acknowledged the marvelous ovation and played many encores.

He had a very large audience, not so far from capacity. Never has he had an audience that was more enthusiastic.

The audience seemed to think of him in the terms of the master, respecting the mood of the master as reflected by the artist.

Rachmaninoff was presented at the Murat yesterday by Henry K. Burton.

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BLESSING," SAYS
BAND DIRECTOR**