

OVATION IS GIVEN TO RACHMANINOFF

Distinguished Pianist in Exposition of Masters at Orchestra Hall.

BY CHARLOTTE M. TARSNEY.

Sergie Rachmaninoff's annual recital in the city is an event anticipated by music students and the musical public. Last evening admirers of the distinguished Russian pianist gathered in Orchestra hall to listen to an exposition of the Mozart Sonata, No. 14, Schumann's delightful Carnival and a Chopin Nocturne, Valze and Ballade, which will stand out among the real treats of the season. For additional measure the program included the Scarlatti Sonata in D minor and the same composer's Sonata in C major, along with a stunningly lyrical "Moment Musicale" by Rachmaninoff, himself, and his glorified transcription of Kreisler's "Liebesfreud." The audience was so thoroughly moved by the brilliant performance of the artist and his engaging program that it was clamoring for encores when this writer left the hall.

A Rachmaninoff recital compels interest not only in the dignity and depth of understanding of the readings this artist presents, but chiefly in his scholarly, aristocratic style. He comes to the platform not to display his own virtuosity but to emphasize the individuality and charm of the composer, with all the emotional content and wealth of expression that his particular work may present. That was the reason his readings of Mozart, Schumann and Chopin stood out in such high relief last evening.

Every student who has reveled in the beauty of the Schumann work must have marveled at the breadth and verve of the Rachmaninoff interpretation and the sentiment and poetry of the Chopin readings were totally divorced from the sentimentality with which this composer is so frequently approached. The authority and poise of Rachmaninoff cannot help but make an impression on his hearers. The very aloofness of his manner serves the more to center attention on the music he expounds.

The audience was frank in expressing its pleasure and approval.

The pianist gave a clear-cut, sharply defined rhythmic performance of the two Scarlatti sonatas, rich in contrasts and subtlety of shadings. His own "Moment Musicale" proved a melodious, eloquent bit of writing, while the transcription of the well known Kreisler work was brilliantly handled both as to writing and performance.