

RACHMANINOFF WINS PLAUDITS OF BIG AUDIENCE

Famous Pianist and Com-
poser Displays Complete
Mastery

By M. H.

Tuesday evening marked the third occasion in recent years on which Vancouver audiences have had the privilege of hearing the world famous pianist and composer, Sergei Rachmaninoff, who played to a full house and ever enthusiastic listeners.

The complete mastery of the artist was soon brought back to mind with the first movement of the opening number, the Beethoven sonata, op. 109 that proved to be a two-fold welcome, since it is one of the less familiar of the works of that composer, and served as a fitting introduction to those not having heard the famous Russian before.

"Papillons" (Schumann) was the next contribution, of lighter vein and enjoyably familiar, with constantly recurring German airs, and a delightful waltz tune that acquired an amazing delicacy at the hands of the artist.

The climax of the evening was reached with the Chopin sonata op. 35. The first notes of the "Grave" seemed immediately to hold the audience with an attention that continued throughout the varying moods of the succeeding movements till, with the "Funeral March," even those with rather disturbing coughs, prevalent during the first part of the evening, were constrained to make an effort for silence.

Other numbers for the evening included "Barcarolle" — Rubinstein; "Fairy Tales," a work still in manuscript by Madten; "Etude-Tableau" — Rachmaninoff; "Toccata"—Ravel; two delightful Debussy numbers, "La Petite Fille aux Cheveux de Lin and "Jardins sous la Pluie," and a Scriabine group, "Etude in D flat major and D sharp minor and Prelude in F sharp minor.

The closing group brought prolonged and enthusiastic applause and, after repeated recalls, the artist responded with most generous encores, including the famous C sharp minor "Prelude."