

# Sergei Rachmaninoff Plays to Appreciative Audience

## Music Lovers Throughout Eastern Indiana Drawn Here for Recital of Re- nowned Pianist.

By June Mull.

A piano recital the greatness of which was perceptible to every listener was given last evening in the Masonic Temple by Sergei Rachmaninoff, famous Russian composer, before an audience consisting not only of lovers of music in Muncie, but from many nearby cities, drawn here by the renown of the performing artist.

Brought to this city under the auspices of the American Legion Auxiliary, Rachmaninoff was greeted by a large audience, appreciative of his authoritative and sympathetic reading of the masters whose compositions he played. The first half of his program was devoted to Beethoven, Schumann and Chopin, and he played all three with what impressed as authentic conception of the composers' vision and intent.

**Plays Six of Own Compositions.**

Outstanding in the first section of his program was the Chopin "Funeral March," which he is famous for lifting from the usual mere "pianism" with which that movement of the sonata usually is played. His reading was commanding and elemental, the keyboard under his fingers calling forth music of beauty and grandeur.

After the intermission, Rachmaninoff returned to the piano to play six studies of his own, the last of which was "The Prelude." Rachmaninoff has written more than thirty other preludes which musicians consider better than the "Prelude in C-Sharp Minor," but this sensational and showy piece, the moment the first chord is sounded, means his name.

**Plays But Two Encores.**

He played it last evening with his characteristic lack of ostentation, and although the audience may not have had visions of Norse mythology, immediately he began to play it there seemed to be the greatest satisfaction derived from hearing the composer himself perform his most popularly-known work. Hereafter, in spite of the four staves in which the last page of "The Prelude" is written, a greater number of people will know that it can be played without heroics.

Rachmaninoff, perhaps to show himself capable of it, gave rather a demonstration of compelling virtuosity in the last number on his announced program, the Tausig arrangement of "Valse Caprice," by Strauss. This number was one of rare beauty.

For encores the composer played the Chopin "Valse in E-Minor" and his own arrangement of "The Bumblebee," by Rimsky-Korsakoff.

**Faces Audience With Diffidence.**

The audience fled as soon as the two encores had been played, otherwise there might have been more of the delightful numbers Rachmaninoff was choosing to add to his program.

Rachmaninoff's manner is worth remarking upon. While the audience chattered before the beginning of the program he suddenly appeared from

the wings and walked slowly to the piano. He faces his audience with diffidence. There is, nevertheless, a strong consciousness of his power and presence. His walk as he leaves the stage, his figure tall, stooped, is almost ambling.

**To Play in Chicago Sunday.**

The composer speaks English with a marked accent. He was accompanied by his wife, who sat in the audience during the concert. Those who heard the pianist are considerably indebted to the American Legion Auxiliary for bringing him to Muncie. He will give a recital in Chicago Sunday, and is not scheduled to appear in any other city nearer here.

The committee of the auxiliary in charge of arrangements for the event consisted of Mrs. Ralph Hamilton, chairman; Mrs. Meade Hamilton and Mrs. Everett Godwin. The proceeds will be used to finance the auxiliary's program of welfare work for ex-service men and their families.

## STATE HARDWARE BODY NAMES RUSHVILLE MAN

Indianapolis, Jan. 31 (AP)—G. Gunn Hayden, of Rushville, was elected president of the Indiana Retail Hardware Association at the closing session of the thirty-first annual convention of the organization here today.

Other officers elected were: I. O. Reinoehl, Kendallville, first vice-president; William Emrich, Jr., Indianapolis, second vice-president; G. F. Sheely, Indianapolis, secretary-treasurer.

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