

Big Throng Pleased By Pianist

Rachmaninoff Applauded by
Music Lovers.

BY JAMES KIMBROUGH.

Sergei Rachmaninoff, internationally famed pianist, played five program selections and two short encores at a concert sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary in the Masonic Temple auditorium Friday night. Because of the large attendance, the auxiliary will be able to carry on its program of aid for disabled war veterans and families of veterans.

Of course, there was more than that to Mr. Rachmaninoff's concert. He brought to hundreds the realization that musical composers conceive set combinations of notes but that it is the interpreter of those combinations who makes music. Which doesn't mean this is often, or even occasionally done.

How well this realization was brought home, was shown by the applause given Rachmaninoff. The numbers presented were, in order, a Beethoven Sonata, a short Schumann selection in F sharp minor, a Chopin Sonata in four movements including the well known funeral march, Rachmaninoff's own etudes culminating in the great C-sharp minor prelude, and Strauss' Valse Caprice.

To criticize the artist's rendition of these numbers, to attempt an appraisal of the playing would be difficult. However, it may be said the audience did its own appraising. The selections played were more or less familiar to most of those present. For they were the classic music that has been butchered and tortured for years by every mechanical piano and every tinkling piano pounder.

Made 'Em Different.

Rachmaninoff played these same numbers, the selections called "classics" but usually considered boring by persons who can't hear fine music often, and made 'em like it. Rather, he permitted them to like it.

Only one thing went slightly wrong during the concert. Rachmaninoff, familiar as he is with music and the work it must impose, plays a few preliminary chords, starts his number and is then lost to his surroundings. He was so last night and the intervals that properly come between various movements of the numbers were the signal for some misplaced applause.

Which shows how much those who heard Rachmaninoff liked his work. When the program was completed they applauded and gravely, Rachmaninoff gave as encores a short Chopin Valse and the theme from Rimsky-Korsakoff's Flight of the Bumblebee.

"If they'd kept on applauding, instead of getting their coats and hats on, he'd have played some more." "Wasn't he wonderful?" These were some of the remarks passed about as the crowd moved slowly toward the exits. "He's a genius."

The crowd was right, Rachmaninoff is a musical genius and, to one who has perhaps never before seen that quality expressed, one of the greatest of all geniuses.