

Rachmaninoff Deeply Stirs Ottawa Audience By Tremendous Emotional Power of His Work

Sergei Rachmaninoff is one of the gravest, most austere and impassive looking musicians who ever bowed courteously but unsmilingly to an audience before beginning a recital. For this reason he is one of the most deceiving. As his program proceeds he reveals behind the mask fire and tremendous emotional power.

Rachmaninoff has played in Ottawa several times. Last evening when he gave the fourth recital of the Tremblay 1929-30 series in the Glebe Collegiate Hall, there was not a vacant seat. Superb technical mastery associated with magnificent intellectual grasp and finished artistry rouse admiration. These are factors in Rachmaninoff's appeal to public interest. Transcending them is his power to express in his playing the most profound human emotions.

Recognized as one of the outstanding living composers, special interest attached to last night's program from the fact that he included, for once, a group of his own compositions. It was a privilege to hear the six Etudes Tableaux as the author intended

them to be interpreted. The audience practically shared in the recreation, so much fervency did the master pianist infuse into the playing.

First there was a study in F minor, the rhythmic tapping of dancing feet. A study in C major came next, then one in E flat major, triumphantly joyous. The rush and swoop of elfin breezes followed, an etude in E flat minor. A G minor study was in reflective mood and the group was completed with a C sharp minor study, first cousin at least to the famous C sharp minor prelude.

Dignity, grandeur, tragedy, grief, passion, resignation and a song of hope of celestial beauty made the Rachmaninoff interpretation of the Chopin Sonata, Op. 35 in B flat minor (the Funeral March) a great experience. Schumann was represented by Novelette, Op. 21, F sharp minor, richly colorful. Happily, the Beethoven Sonata, Op. 78, was allowed to proceed to the end without applause between movements to break the unity.

Waltz Caprice (Strauss-Tausig)

made a scintillating final number, played at a dazzling tempo.

Encores followed. Rachmaninoff responded with the Chopin Nocturne in E flat minor. Another curtain call, and still the number that people wanted was not forthcoming. The third recall brought the Prelude in C sharp minor. And then Rachmaninoff played God Save the King—I.C.A.

To Open \$50,000 Church

(Special to The Citizen).

KEMPTVILLE, Feb. 7—Spencerville's new \$50,000 United church which is nearly completed will be officially opened on Sunday Feb. 23rd. It is expected that Rev. Dr. Laird, general treasurer of the United Church of Canada, will dedicate the church on the opening Sunday and will preach at both services on that day.

DANCING

Why not join up with a class or take a few private lessons? It is fun—and it is reducing, lightening and rejuvenating.

Sinclair's

Q. 3824.