

Rachmaninoff Thrills Great Crowd at the Auditorium

Noted Pianist Acclaimed by Appreciative Audience—Generous With His Encores—Appearance is Tremendous Success.

Sergei Rachmaninoff — firm, sure-fingered Rachmaninoff—the mere mention of whose name was sufficient to sell out long in advance all tickets for his concert at the Westchester Woman's Club was heard in this city last night by an audience which was limited in size only by the full capacity of the Woman's Club auditorium, but which showed unlimited appreciation of this great master of the pianoforte, and which left no doubt of the sincerity of the reception which it afforded him.

Rachmaninoff, true artist that he is, played without heroics, and so there need be no heroics in an attempt to describe his playing here last night. The ticking of a clock in the auditorium could be heard almost loudly through the softer passages of the pianist's program, so quiet and tense was the audience. At the conclusion of the announced program, the audience gave long and tumultuous applause, and after Rachmaninoff had responded with two encores, the last being his famous Prelude in C-Sharp Minor, his listeners refused to leave the building until he had taken three more bows in a barrage of applause which lasted fully five minutes.

It was a tall, gaunt figure, with the face of a sphinx, that came out on the dimly-lighted stage, and after a brief smile and a bow, slouched itself atop the piano stool and unconcernedly improvised for a minute before commencing the program, the memory of which will long be cherished by those who were fortunate to be present.

Rachmaninoff's first offering was Beethoven's Sonata, Opus 78, and his smooth and firm touch at once made the audience realize that it had suddenly come face to face with true greatness, and that it was experiencing something out of the ordinary.

This genius of the pianoforte at once created an atmosphere in which his listeners became responsive to the appeal of his power and his virtuosity. In the personality of Rachmaninoff, the artist and the man unite in a remarkable degree.

Throughout his concert, he executed difficult passages with technical ease, and throughout his concert, where many, less touched with the fire divine would have done acrobatics, he went calmly along with a marvelous dignity. It is little that one can say, however, of the technical perfections of a master.

Possessing great force and at times playing with great power, Rachmaninoff never went beyond the limit of beauty in musical tone, and he did not let speed becloud clearness and distinct articulation.

And when the announced program was concluded, the audience broke into a storm of applause which it had been impatient to give all through the concert.

Rachmaninoff responded with

Chopin's Valse in E-Minor, and after this, he understood the reason for the listeners' continued applause, and closed his concert with his so popular Prelude in C-Sharp Minor.

The program follows:

Sonata, opus 78 (Beethoven), Adagio cantabile, allegro ma non troppo, Allegro vivace.

Novellette, opus 21, F-sharp Minor (Schumann).

Sonata, opus 35, B-flat Minor (Chopin), Grave, Doppo movimento, Scherzo, Marche funebre, Finale (without intermission).

Etudes Tableaux, op. 33 (Rachmaninoff), F-minor, C-major, E-flat major, E-flat minor, G-minor, C-sharp minor.

Valse Caprice, "One Lives But Once" (Strauss-Tausig).

—E. T. J.

MISS KUEHNER WEDS IN JUNE

**Engagement to A. H. Cornely
Announced at Bridge**

A Valentine bridge party was held on Wednesday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Kuehner, 93 Brookside Avenue, in honor of the engagement of their daughter Madeline to Arthur H. Cornely, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Cornely of 351 Union Avenue.

The rooms were beautifully decorated in appropriate colors, with red and white carnations and Valentine hearts. The announcement of the engagement was written on the bridge tallies. Prizes at cards were awarded to Miss M. Blair, Mrs. A. Cornely, Mr. H. Cornely, Miss L. Mueller and Dr. R. H. Kuehner. At 11 o'clock supper was served. Games and dancing were then enjoyed.

The following guests were present: Mr. and Mrs. A. Cornely, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. A. Cornely, Dr. and Mrs. R. H. Kuehner, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kuehner, Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Harrie, Mrs. Wm. Mahan, Mrs. Geo. M. Cohan, Misses Madeline Hilker, Lulu Mueller, Mina Blair, Messrs. John Livingston, Harold R. Cornely and Frederic L. Cornely.

The couple expect to be married the early part of June at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Fleetwood News

ENTERTAINS 60 GUESTS

Mrs. Frank Cass, of the Terrace Grand, entertained sixty guests on Tuesday. The event was one of a series of afternoon bridge sives by