

RECITAL BY RACHMANINOFF

Russian Pianist Presents Program Of Chopin And Liszt Works—Ballade In F Minor Of Former Is On Program

Having come to expect almost impossible things of Serge Rachmaninoff, Russian pianist, it was something of a surprise to have him surpass even himself, as he did in his recital at the Lyric last night. An amazing pianist is this man, who has been known to play masterfully at times and at others to give an almost indifferent performance. But in either case he always leaves the impression of tremendous reserves, of which the thing he is doing at the time is just a scratch on the surface, however fine it may be.

Having chosen to confine himself to Chopin and Liszt, blood brothers musically, he gave a splendid and revealing interpretation of their varying moods which was satisfying as anything he has done here for a long time.

Combining poetic sentiment with the choicest of melodic content, he progressed from one composition to another, giving each a measure of beauty and a finish of execution that was a joy to hear.

His first group consisted of four Chopin pieces, three somewhat unfamiliar—the Ballade in F minor, Rondo in E flat major, the B major Nocturne and the scintillating Valse, of which he has made such a fine phonograph record. Each was worked out in fine detail, the Rondo coming back again and again to the theme in a teasing sort of fashion, instead of being merely a repetition of a melody with nice transitions between.

Continuing with Chopin, Mr. Rachmaninoff played the familiar Fantasia Impromptu, one of the well-known Mazurkas and the B. minor Scherzo. The Mazurkas, like the Scherzos are among the most highly-flavored and individual works of the Pole, and the melancholy rhythmic swing the pianist put into the one he played, created a desire for more. The fluidity and smoothness of the Fantasia and the Scherzo were admirable. The moods of the latter were outlined sharply, but always expressed with the perfect taste and moderation which mellowed the whole performance.

In his playing of Chopin was hand a month ago, lying in bed in the woman's second-floor apartment at 140 South Ann street.

Mrs. Smith, who is 33 years old, told her friend she had swallowed several Ipoison tablets.

Mrs. Dora A. Kinsman, 65, was treated at St. Joseph's Hospital for a severe laceration of the left wrist. She was found unconscious in a bedroom of her home, at 2210 Aiken street, by her husband, John Kinsman. A razor blade was found beneath a pillow on the bed.

wholly satisfying, that of Liszt was equally, if not more so. Both were poets of the piano, and the Valse Impromptu, by Liszt, is so thoroughly Chopinesque in spirit that it might be a conscious imitation on the part of Liszt.

It was interesting to compare the Liszt Ballade in B minor with the Chopin. It begins with stormy mutterings and unfolds like a tale, finally breaking into one of the beautiful songs he wrote so prolifically into his works, concluding with the storm rumblings of the introduction. It is more voluble, more obvious than that of Chopin, but with such finesse did Mr. Rachmaninoff rub the edges that it seemed just a little longer tale, and as polished as the other.

Rarely, if ever, has the Sonnetto del Petrarca No. 104 been played with such serenely exquisite finish as it was last night. It seemed to whisper its message, so that it left sounds one strained to catch, a delicate, faint fragrance which trailed some minutes after the last notes were gone. The E major Polonaise concluded the unusual recital, the only *tour-de-force* on the program, but that fact the pianist deftly concealed by bringing out the strong nationalistic spirit of the work.

If the volume of applause continued to increase in direct ratio as the recital progressed no doubt Mr. Rachmaninoff stayed to play many encores in response to the enthusiasm shown.

John Charles Thomas To Give Recital Today

John Charles Thomas, barytone, will give his only Baltimore recital this season at the Peabody this afternoon. Mr. Thomas has won many laurels in opera, particularly in Belgium.

His accompanist will be Lester Hodges. The program includes French, German, Italian and English songs.

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