

Throng Hears Rachmaninoff

Composer-Pianist Roundly Applauded in Program in Which He Displays His Familiar Style.

By EDWARD DURNEY

Sergei Rachmaninoff, known far and wide as the composer of the popular C-sharp Minor Prelude, has but to appear as pianist and a full hall is assured. The Prelude is by no means Rachmaninoff's proudest achievement as creator, but such is the psychology of the dear public. Would that the Russian's betters among pianists could be as certain of a hearing!

The composer-pianist played Thursday evening, in Buffalo Consistory auditorium, to a capacity audience which listened eagerly and applauded with increasing momentum until at last the favorite prelude sounded forth. In his official program the pianist limited himself to music of Chopin and Liszt, and in his familiar manner he rode trusty steeds to moderate artistic victory.

Rachmaninoff is a calculating pianist, unbending and curiously uneven dynamically and interpretatively for a musician of his status. He is fond of presenting a melody in bold relief, and does so with full, metallic tone, often apparently disregarding the significance of foundation bass and harmonic filling. Individuality may be mentioned as a feature of his interpretations, but, unfortunately, it is individuality strongly suggestive of exaggeration and eccentricity.

The pianist negotiated some of his best effects in his performance of the lovely F Minor Ballade, Chopin, and the Nocturne, B Major, Opus 32, to which he gave poetic utterance. In this Chopin group his technical fluency gave sufficient accounting in the tripping and somewhat ridiculous Rondo, E-flat Major; further, he indulged himself in some queer interpretative antics with the E-flat Valse, and he won the approval of his listeners with the threadbare Fantasia Impromptu, a Mazurka and the B Minor Scherzo.

The Liszt group comprised the Ballade, B Minor, Valse Impromptu, Sonnette, 104, Del Petrarca and the E Major Polonaise—music of much vain-

glorious display which the pianist invested with requisite brilliance.

Mr. Rachmaninoff refrained from encores until after the final program offering.

ERLANGER RELATIVES CHARGED WITH PLOT

Tried to End Common Law Relationship, Says Mrs. Fixel.

From the New York Bureau
of the BUFFALO EVENING NEWS.

NEW YORK, March 28.—Bitterness that is expected to mark the contest of the will of Abraham L. Erlanger, formerly of Buffalo, theatrical manager and producer, by Mrs. Charlotte Fixel Erlanger, who claims a share of his estate as his common law wife, was further indicated yesterday by affidavits submitted to the Surrogate's court by Max D. Steuer, counsel for the contestant. They are a few of the 75 which Mr. Steuer promised on Wednesday at a hearing before Surrogate Foley to support Mrs. Fixel Erlanger's claim.

One of these sworn statements is made by her and charges there was a conspiracy between Mitchell L. Erlanger, former Supreme court justice, a brother of the theatrical man, and one of the three residuary legatees, and Saul J. Baron, who was Mr. Erlanger's attorney and is an executor, to end the relationship that existed between Mrs. Fixel Erlanger and Abraham L. Erlanger. Another affidavit is by a physician who treated Mr. Erlanger for two and a half years and still another affidavit by his former secretary, tells of an alleged effort to obtain testimony from her against Mrs. Fixel Erlanger.

An early determination of the contest, it is believed, will be made.