

# RACHMANINOFF GIVES MEMORABLE RECITAL

Great Russian Pianist Is  
Heard by Capacity Crowd  
in Chopin and Liszt

Musical Mastery Makes Con-  
cert One of Outstanding  
Events of Season

By LINTON MARTIN

Just Chopin and Liszt comprised the programme presented by Serge Rachmaninoff at his recital before a capacity audience in the Academy yesterday afternoon. But the sheer musical greatness of the Russian pianist and composer, and his extraordinary individuality as an artist, made the concert one of the outstanding events of the musical season.

The most impressive proof of his powers lay in the fact that he elicited the utmost of enthusiasm from his devoted hearers by no flashiness of effect, by no pyrotechnic display of bravura, but by masterly musicianship alone and his faculty of impressing his personality upon whatever he may elect to play, so that, without indulging in any affectation, it is apparent that he has a clear-cut conception of the composer's intentions, as understood through the medium of his own musical intelligence and artistic philosophy.

The very austerity of Rachmaninoff's manner and mood yesterday afternoon infused the effect of considerable restraint into most of his offerings. At no time did he thunder forth with the full dynamic power of the instrument. But certain numbers were played with a quality of surpassing poetry in a fashion that was utterly individual, and this was especially apparent in the nostalgic fragrance of the Fantaisie Impromptu, which was the fifth offering in the group of seven Chopin works. Mr. Rachmaninoff began with a generally wistful interpretation of the F minor Ballade, following this with the E-flat major Rondo, B major Nocturne, Valse, and, after the Fantaisie Impromptu, a Mazurka and the B minor Scherzo. Considerable dynamic digression, and free use of rubato marked the performance on occasion, but always the interpretations seemed musically logical.

The Liszt group was marked by none of the shallow showiness which seems

to be the chief quality many pianists find in this composer. Mr. Rachmaninoff played the B minor Ballade; Chopin posthumous Valse, the audience showed no disposition to leave, whereupon he played the C sharp minor Prelude with an air of finality eliciting great applause.



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