

Rachmaninoff Wins Ovation By Program

Famous Pianist Recalled Thrice For Encores in Brilliant Recital at Bushnell Hall

BY WALTER BROWN.

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF—In piano recital in Bushnell Memorial Hall, Sunday afternoon, February 8; fifth concert in Kellogg Course, 1930-31.

Program.

Andantino and Variations, Schubert-Tausig; Davidsbündler, Op. 6, (18 Characteristic pieces), Schumann; Scherzo, B minor and Scherzo, B flat minor, Chopin; Prelude, G major and Etude, Tableau, C minor, Rachmaninoff; Etude, D flat major, Valse Impromptu, and Carnaval de Pesth, Liszt.

The usual capacity audience gave Mr. Rachmaninoff cordial greeting when he walked out on the Bushnell stage and glanced about the great auditorium, in which he was making his first appearance; and the cordiality grew as the program progressed—though it must be said at the outset that the pianist did not choose a program primarily intended to arouse an audience to enthusiasm. Indeed it may rather be questioned whether he wants merely to gain applause anyway. He seems perfectly satisfied to let his audience find out about his marvelous facility for itself; to satisfy itself that here is an artist who is doing certain things in his own particular way, that well repays the most careful attention. And the fact that he gets that attention and a steady crescendo of approval as he goes along—that is the answer.

Sunday afternoon Mr. Rachmaninoff seemed at the very top of his form, from the quiet statement of the gentle melody of his first number throughout his entire list and the added numbers that were demanded. The Tausig Variations are interesting in content and were superbly played and the shining and sprightly Schumann pieces had delightful interpretation.

As to Chopin the artist has his own ideas; and he does not play either Scherzo along the usual lines. But for most of those present at his recital, it would seem, the Rachmaninoff reading of these Chopin numbers was eminently satisfying in its brilliance, its spontaneity and power.

The first Scherzo soon developed tremendous speed that only the facility of a great technician could offer; the melody that followed was beautifully sung and delightfully showed the pianist's art in the use of the little graduations of tempo and tone. And the same brilliance, the same charm of reading came in the second of the group.

There were some who regretted the absence of the composer's most familiar Prelude from the printed or the added list, but the G major Prelude was charming and the Etude that followed proved a very brilliant pathway leading to the Liszt group.

Here in the Liszt Etude there was perhaps the most melodic, the most beautiful playing of the afternoon. The Liszt of the romanticism, the mysticism of "Les Preludes" sings over his keys in this work and the playing seemed perfectly to fit the mood of the composition. The Valse with its feathery, frost-like upper notes, its varying tempo, was charming; and the broad humors, the delightful filagrees, the dashing melodies, the crisp, authoritative finale of the Carnaval all were brilliant, all effective, and altogether brought the player's art to the consciousness of his hearers with cumulative force. Liszt was played as only a master may play him in Bushnell Hall Sunday afternoon.

There was an added number after the Chopin group; and at the end

Singer Is Coming With Roxy's Gang



FRANK MOULAN

They call Frank Moulan "the singing comedian." Popular with radio fans for his character singing and his work in comic opera, the baritone is coming here in person next Thursday. He will appear with Roxy and his Gang in afternoon and evening performances at the Bushnell Memorial for the benefit of the Community Chest and the Syria Grotto welfare fund.

The impresario himself Roxy, is coming in person and with him will be Mme. Schumann-Heink and a galaxy of Broadway and radio celebrities, including Beatrice Belkin, coloratura soprano of the Metropolitan Opera Company, Patricia Bowman, premiere ballerina of Roxy's theater and others whose names are widely known.

of the concert Mr. Rachmaninoff was brought back to the stage three times to satisfy an audience clamoring for more. And there were many who would have been glad to stay in the hall for another hour of music such as they had been hearing.

Convict Who Escaped From English Prison Captured At Plymouth

Plymouth, England, Feb. 8.—(AP.)—John Mullins, one of two desperate prisoners who made a daring escape from Dartmoor Prison Friday night, was arrested on the street here today. A posse of officers led by bloodhounds, was continuing the search across the moors for his companion, John Michael Gasken.

Mullins, who with the other convict slipped away from a prison line and scaled the 32-foot wall with a rope ladder, was seized by a policeman who recognized him.

Authorities were redoubling their efforts to overtake the other fugitive. It is the tradition that no man has ever made good his escape from Dartmoor Prison. One of the men was a forger and desperado and the other a burglar.

Hope of recapturing Gaskens is increased by the nature of territory through which he is believed fleeing. Bottomless bogs and dense bracken abound in the little settled region and no water fit to drink is available. Roads are heavily guarded and more than 50 men are combing the surrounding country.

Meegan-McKenna Chapter To Meet.

The Meegan-McKenna Chapter, D. A. V., will meet at 8:15 p. m. today at 426 Asylum Street. There will be an initiation of 25 new members.

The Big Show of the