

Rachmaninoff Thrills State-Wide Audience At Recital In City Hall

Graciously Responds To Encores After Program
Largely Devoted To Chopin — Rendition Of
Own Composition Particularly Pleasing

By Inez Perry Turner

With the unusual distinction of composer, pianist, and conductor, together with the aristocratic bearing of a Russian Nationalist, Sergei Vassilevich Rachmaninoff made his first local appearance before a large and enthusiastic audience from all over the State, Thursday evening, in City Hall, Rachmaninoff, who stands on a pedestal of intellectual musicianship, probably unequalled on the public platform today, is a tall virile figure, possessing absolutely no mannerisms. None of the passion and fire of his music depends on a spectacular accompaniment of so-called temperamental flourishes. Quiet, composed, dignified, and modest, the great artist acknowledged with stately bows the continuous applause, which greeted each number, especially the familiar and delightful Chopin "Ballade, A Flat," which was billed as his third number, and after which he left the stage.

Not until he had played the final note of his program, did he respond to encores. Then he graciously interpreted his own transcriptions of Schubert's "Brooklet," Rimsky-Korsakov's "The Flight of the Bumble-Bee," Mousorgsky's "Hopak" or "Gopak" as it is called in different editions, the "Minuet" from the "Arlésienne Suite" by Bizet, and his own most familiar and probably best loved composition "Prelude C Sharp Minor." The audience interrupted the presentation of this number, which the composer terms "a pleasant little piece" and which was written when he was only 20 years old, with a loud burst of appreciation. Regardless of the fact that the great master of piano composition has written what he terms much more worth while literature for the piano since then, this number as played by him Thursday evening will long be remembered and Portland and State of Maine piano teachers will teach their pupils how to play the "Prelude," even as Rachmaninoff, for many years to come.

Rachmaninoff's program was largely devoted to Chopin, although Brahms, Liszt, and one of his own compositions was included. The exacting technique, required in much of his program, was easily mastered with his giant hands and his unusual wrist power. The strength and virility of his playing and the ringing tone, which is always at his command, and his marvelous flexible tempos added greatly to the thrill of the evening's enjoyment.

Opening his program with three movements "Allegro Agitato," "Lento" and "Allegro Molto" from his "Sonata," No. 2, Opus 36 (revised edition), the artist continued with two beautiful "Pallades" by Brahms. Both the "D Minor" and "D Major" Ballades re-

ceived a delightful reading from the imaginative brain of the maestro and a charming rendition. Following these numbers, Rachmaninoff played the "Ballade, A Flat" by Chopin.

The last half of his program included a group of Chopin, in which Rachmaninoff gracefully executed exquisitely interpretations of the "Two Mazurkas," "Valse," "Waltz E Flat," "Polonaise" and "Nocturne." The audience felt a keen sense of something more like intimacy with the great musician after these numbers and were very responsive. The "Rhapsodie Espagnole," by Liszt, a veritable fireworks exhibition of piano gymnastics concluded the program.

Knights Of Columbus To Hear Tapley Speak

County Attorney To Discuss
Work Monday; Council
Meeting To Follow

County Attorney Walter M. Tapley, Jr., will be the speaker and guest of honor at the Portland Council, K. of C., supper in the clubhouse at 6:30 o'clock Monday evening. Mr. Tapley will describe the functions of his office and his work in criminal investigation.

The regular council meeting will convene at 8 p. m., and several matters of importance are scheduled for consideration. In preparation for the council meeting, the advisory board will meet in the library of the clubhouse at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon when a program of action will be formulated.

The Golden Jubilee Year of the Knights of Columbus will be 1932 and preparations for an adequate observance are being made by all units of the order under the direction of the supreme officers. A plan of action for the local council will be in accord with that of the supreme organization and will become effective the first of next year.

New York, Dec. 10.—(AP)—Mme. Santa Biondo, 28, lyric soprano of the Metropolitan Opera Company, failed to appear tonight for her first appearance in the new opera, "La Notte Di Zoraima," with Rosa Ponselle. Officials of the opera company said they could not explain her absence.