

RACHMANINOFF THRILLS HEARERS AT RECITAL IN MACON THURSDAY

MACON, Ga.—Music lovers in Macon and from several neighboring cities gathered on Thursday evening at the Municipal Auditorium in Macon to attend the recital by Sergei Rachmaninoff, eminent Russian composer and pianist. The handsome auditorium presented a brilliant scene with the arena and sweeping balcony filled with smartly gowned women and their escorts, who were all eager to welcome the tall, gaunt Russian as he walked out on the stage and took his seat at the piano. A grave man, a great musician, a sort of gentle giant, full of power and tenderness, who seemed to express through the medium of music the whole of life's experience. Rachmaninoff, the pianist, painting with master strokes, thrilling his listeners with his virtuosity; Rachmaninoff, the man, reaching out in sympathy to touch the hearts of his audience and bring into being their highest thoughts.

The program, which was happily selected to please every taste, opened with Beethoven's thirty-two variations in C minor, played with masterly distinction and faultless technique. This was followed by a Chopin group, including the delicately lilting "Waltz in A Flat," the familiar and ever lovely "Nocturne in F Sharp," and the ardent "Ballade in A Flat," one of the most beautiful works of the composer.

Next came one of the highlights of the evening, the Tausig arrangement of Webers' famous "Invitation to the Dance," played with magic charm and delicate grace and as full of color as a bal masque.

The first group after the intermission included two preludes, both by Rachmaninoff, the first, the familiar one in "C Sharp Minor," sent the audience into raptures of de-

light. This prelude is a remarkably thrilling piece, stirring the imagination to all sorts of fancies. It is like the sea, breaking in great green waves against some lonely coral reef; it is like the dark turbulent thoughts of a passionate people; a tragic majestic cry against the background of the ever-recurring chimes, like the fervent chant of hundreds of worshippers in a great cathedral.

The lesser known "Prelude in F Sharp Major," was in a more contemplative mood and was also very favorably received, as was the sprightly "Scherzo" from Mendelssohn's "Midsummer Nights Dream," arranged by Rachmaninoff.

The fifth group was composed of two melodic numbers, the lovely Liszt arrangement of Schubert's "Serenade," and Schubert's graceful "Brooklet," arranged by Rachmaninoff, both artistically rendered by the pianist.

The final numbers on the program were the beautiful "Etude in D Flat" by Liszt, one of the loveliest works in musical literature and one which Rachmaninoff played with tender understanding and sympathy. This etude is a work of deep thought and emotion and left the listeners lost in the spell of its sweeping, inspiring beauty. In contrast to this mood, the pianist played a brilliant rendition of a scintillating Liszt "Rhapsodie," which was enthusiastically received. Rachmaninoff responded most generously, bowing low and smiling his grave smile. He then played Tchaikowsky's "Troika," gayly, delicately, excellently, following this with his own lovely "Humoresque," and the "Smuggler," by Schumann Tausig, which brought to a close one of the most satisfying and thrilling evenings ever enjoyed by this reviewer.

ELLEN WOLFF