

## FAMOUS RUSSIAN PIANIST IS HEARD IN CONCERT HERE

BY INA GROTTÉ.

Playing with that supreme ease and relaxation that has long distinguished his performances at the piano, Sergei Rachmaninoff was heard in concert at the City Auditorium Tuesday night. The famous Russian, as tonally vigorous as ever, was enthusiastically greeted by the many Houstonians who venerate him as an interpreter of pure melody and beauty.

Mr. Rachmaninoff's program was disappointing in content, being made up entirely, with the exception of one of his own preludes, of literature long known as the particular property of students. However, while he did not bestir himself to give anything unhackneyed, the opulence of his singing tone, the smooth ease of his technical equipment, his polished phrasing, his distinctive interpretations, compensated for any lack of originality in program selection.

Though some might have described the artist as rather cold, this reviewer prefers to think of him as merely controlled. It would be easy, in the so often overly-sugared phrases of such compositions as the Chopin F Sharp Major Nocturne or the A Flat Ballade, for him to have become overly emotional. To my mind, it was Mr. Rachmaninoff's rather formal approach to these things that saved him from being just another pianist playing a group of Chopin "war horses" and made him a pianistic Titan re-creating beauty.

It was in the three encores, "Troika" (Tschaikowsky), "Hopak" (Moussorgsky), and his own arrangement of Rimsky-Korsakoff's "Flight of the Bee" that the evening's peak of charm was reached. More of these characteristically Russian bits of melodic delight were requested but time did not allow the audience to be satisfied.

Rachmaninoff was brought to Houston by Mrs. Edna W. Saunders.