

Rachmaninoff Deftness Wins Music Lovers

Great Masters Recreated by Pianist's Art for Houstonians

By PAT McNEALY BARNES.

Some of the world's greatest composers breathed again through the finger-tips of Sergei Rachmaninoff when he gave one of the most glorious concerts ever heard in Houston at the City Auditorium Tuesday night.

Capturing his audience with the first number he played, the Russian master pianist-composer was given an ovation by the hundreds of persons who thronged the Auditorium Tuesday night.

Perfection in musical beauty and technique stamped each composition that Rachmaninoff performed and evidence of the audience's appreciation was shown when it was reluctant to let him go after playing three encores.

When the tall, gaunt, square-shouldered figure sat at the piano, the audience was conscious only of his hands; deft fingers playing on the black and white keys.

Opening his concert with Beethoven's Variations, C-Minor, Rachmaninoff gave a variety of compositions, including some of his own.

While each number was greeted with vigorous applause, Chopin's Valse, Nocturne, Ballade and Scherzo from Midsummer Night's Dream seemed to rival for popularity.

Rachmaninoff transcribed Mendelssohn's Scherzo from Midsummer

Night's Dream. Another favorite of the evening was Rachmaninoff's two Preludes.

The delicate fingering in Weber-Tausig's Invitation to the Dance, combined with the tonal beauty produced by Rachmaninoff, made the composition a rare number on the evening's program.

Other compositions played by Rachmaninoff Tuesday evening were: Serenade, Schubert-Liszt; Brooklet, Schubert-Rachmaninoff; Etude and Rhapsodie, Liszt.

Liszt's Rhapsodie was a brilliant climax for the exquisite program arranged by Rachmaninoff for the music lovers of Houston and this section of the state.

Sergei Rachmaninoff, who has not appeared in Houston for 10 years, was brought here for the one concert by Edna W. Saunders.

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