

Rachmaninoff 'Plays Down' In Shrine Concert, Music Critic Says

By RALPH ROSE JR.
Oklahoma News Music Critic

Sergei Rachmaninoff gave a piano recital before a large crowd of music lovers and students at the Shrine Auditorium last night.

In New York, the most famed and respected music critic very likely would state the above, substituting, of course, "Carnegie Hall" for Shrine Auditorium, and let the review go at that. For naturally Rachmaninoff is Rachmaninoff and what can be said about him that has not already been voiced in grand and eloquent phrases.

However, in New York Rachmaninoff certainly would not have played such an unsatisfying, hackneyed program as he chose to perform last night for his group of Oklahoma City hearers. For this reason, the writer cannot help but be disappointed. Having heard him so many times in the east perform his own concertos, or at least program pieces in which the composer's inspiration measures up to Rachmaninoff's capabilities as a musician, it was slightly discomfoting to see so great an artist, obviously play down to his audience.

If ever it was thought possible for an artist to shine in a mediocre program, Rachmaninoff certainly demonstrated the possibility last night. His Chopin undoubtedly caused a good many pianistic eyebrows to raise slightly in surprise. As though to atone for having had to perform his C Sharp Minor Prelude, the great Russian followed this with another lesser known Prelude of extreme lyric beauty. This Prelude and his own transcription of Mendelssohn's Scherzo from Midsummer Night's Dream were the

two most enjoyable pieces to this listener's ears.

'A Man's Land' Majestic Offering

The Majestic Theater's attraction for Sunday, Monday and Tuesday is "A Man's Land," in which Hoot Gibson and Marian Schelling share headline roles. The film is first-run in Oklahoma City.

On Tuesday and Wednesday Joan Blondell and Stuart Erwin appear in "Make Me a Star."

"The Mask of Fu Manchu," featuring Boris Karloff, is the offering on Friday and Saturday.

A Hollywood Story

Then there's the producer who, at a party, was discovered in a rather compromising situation with an attractive blond when a newspaper man bounced into the room without taking the trouble to knock. "Please don't write anything about this—it would be awfully embarrassing," exclaimed the producer, jumping up.

"Don't worry, I won't," returned the scribe. "She happens to be my