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## RARE EVENING COMES TO WICHITA AUDIENCE AT CLOSE OF CONCERT

Rachmaninoff Surpasses Himself in a Series of Encores at End

### RECEIVES AN OVATION

Sergei Rachmaninoff, the great composer and pianist, paid a wonderful tribute to the musical taste of Wichita and Southern Kansas last night at the Forum, by giving after his concert had virtually closed, to the sustained applause of his audience, five superbly executed additions to his program.

These five numbers conformed to that part of Rachmaninoff's genius for interpretation where he is most bewildering in his magic, for each of the five offerings to the audience at the close permitted the feathery prestissimo in the high treble in which his equal has not been heard in Wichita or probably anywhere else. His mastery of this upper keyboard was apparent in the ringing tones he got out of keys that normally only tinkle. Even his glissandos seemed to preserve the value of every note in them.

The five numbers which the composer used as his adieu to the audience, delivered with such spirit and artistry, aroused his auditors to great enthusiasm. Immediately after he was the center of an impromptu reception on the stage. He was signing programs and receiving every evidence that Wichita was at his feet.

One young woman enthusiast asked: "Do you mind if I kiss you?" And kissed him.

The kindly pianist smiled a broad smile and said: "Not a bit."

The five numbers with which Rachmaninoff carried away the heart of Wichita were as follows:

1. Troika (Sleigh) . . . Tchaikowski
2. Hopak-Rachmaninoff-Moskowsky
3. Smugglers . . . . . Schubert
4. Humoresque . . . . . Rachmaninoff
5. The Bumble Bee-Rimsky-Korsakov

These five numbers, ending with a veritable hum, the whole series pitched high by a remarkable rendition of Schubert's Smugglers just before, followed a complete program of rare music marvelously played. For Rachmaninoff last night did not try to make the piano anything more than a piano. He is meticulous in his observance of time and tone. He watches both form and feeling but never sacrifices form for feeling and when the score reads staccato he plays staccato and when legato the hearer gets legato.

After opening with Beethoven's rather severe variations in C minor, Rachmaninoff gave, under one bracket, a Chopin waltz, a nocturne and a ballade. The high point of the three was his execution of the second movement of the nocturne, in which the audience had a foretaste of the feat that was to come at the close of the concert. He gave next Tausig's transcription of Weber's "Invitation to the Dance." The intermission followed.

There had been persistent applause at the end of each number which the pianist acknowledged by repeated bows, but without encores.

After the intermission he gave two of his preludes, opening with the booming, bell-ringing famous one. After these came the scherzo from Mendelssohn's Midsummer Night's Dream, not a particularly sonorous selection. From that number on Rachmaninoff climbed higher and higher in the realm of superlative piano performance. The Schubert "Serenade" with the Liszt arrangement, the Russian made eerily beautiful and his execution of it last evening can be put at the peak of presentations of that piece of music in Wichita's experience. He next gave Schubert's "Brook" with a Rachmaninoff transcription. The close of the program proper brought a Liszt Etude and a Liszt rhapsodie. It did not seem, when the etude was concluded that Rachmaninoff could surpass it, but he did surpass it in his rendition of the rhapsodie.

Then came the surprise of the evening. Rachmaninoff had denied encores to an audience which had rapturously approved each of his numbers.

He is a strange figure, tall, slender, long-armed and long-legged. He divided his interest in the intermis-

between the audience and the bold wedding of Elsa and Lohengrin on the drop curtain, bolder because he was close up to it and must have had something of a jigg-saw conception of it.

He had taken his bows pretty solemnly and with no intimation that he intended anything except the set program.

When he concluded the Wichita audience remained. It remained until he came back again and again, bowed, and at last returned to the piano and gave the crowd one of the richest and rarest musical experiences this community has ever had. He put sleigh bells into the piano, the thumping tread of peasants dancing, the roar of the sea on a smuggler's coast, the laugh of merry-makers on a village green and the buzz of an angry swarm of bumblebees, and all within a space of twenty minutes and crowning one of the really striking musical events in Wichita's history.

Rachmaninoff appeared here under the local management of Wm. F. Foto, to whom Wichita owes this treat.

## FIRESIDE MEETINGS HELD BY ROTARIANS IN 12 HOMES HERE

The Rotary club canceled its regular noon meeting at Hotel Lassen to meet around the firesides of its members Monday night. Twelve members of the club opened their homes to members, and special programs, each worked out at the different firesides, were enjoyed by the Rotarians. No business was transacted at these meetings.

Hosts were: Walter C. Carr, 107 North Broadview; Dr. Paul C. Carlson, 1212 North Topeka; Earle Jones, 3926 East First; Harry D. Baker, 1829 University; Lon H. Powell, 330 Crestway; M. Elmer Garrison, 130 South Belmont; R. Ward Magill, 4421 East Second; David S. Jackman, 1501 Fairmount; Hardy H. Hurst, 157 Broadview; Ewing B. Fergus, 3805 East English; A. H. Webb, 146 North Crestway, and Brace A. Helfrick, 412 South Hillside.

## ARMBRUSTER RITES TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY

Funeral services for Mrs. Elizabeth Armbruster, pioneer resident of the Andale neighborhood, who died at her home there Sunday, will be held in St. Joseph's Catholic church in Andale Wednesday morning.

Mrs. Armbruster, who was 88 years



MRS. ELIZABETH ARMBRUSTER

old, has been a resident of Andale since 1880 when she came from Ohio with her husband and small children to take her place with other pioneers from the eastern states.

Mrs. Armbruster was born in Germany in June, 1844. She came to this country when 24 years of age and soon after was married in Freeburg, O., to Ferdinand Armbruster.

A member of St. Joseph's church, Mrs. Armbruster was active for many years and was one of the best known women in that section of the county.

Mrs. Armbruster was taken ill shortly before the holidays. Pneumonia complications developed which caused her death. Surviving are five daughters, 37 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. Her husband and six children preceded her in death.

Funeral services will be in charge of the Jewell mortuary of Mt. Hope.