

# Music

## Rachmaninoff

By STEWART B. SABIN

### Program

Variations, C-minor ..... Beethoven  
 Prelude, E-major ..... Bach  
 (Transcribed by Rachmaninoff)  
 Nachtstuck, opus 23 ..... Schumann  
 Impromptu, F-minor ..... Schubert  
 Invitation to the Dance  
 ..... Weber-Tausig  
 Scherzo from Midsummer Night's  
 Dream ..... Mendelssohn  
 (Transcribed by Rachmaninoff)  
 Two Preludes ..... Rachmaninoff  
 (a) Nocturne  
 (b) Ballade ..... Chopin  
 (a) Sonnetto del Petrarca  
 (b) Rhapsodie ..... Liszt

Sergei Rachmaninoff's piano recital in the Eastman Theater last night closed the evening concert series in that theater for this season. The audience was one of the large ones of the season. Over it the great Russian pianist held sway as completely as in the past. He has, to the writer's mind, played more interesting programs, but never played more interestingly. He remains in some respects the most entertaining of the great pianists; he is the most vital and the fact that his remarkable musical imagination is almost fitful adds to legitimate interest because it is governed by fine intelligence and founded on superior detection of what is dramatic and beautiful in the music he plays.

No pianist gets so much contrast, such variance of power and quality of tone within formal limits as does Rachmaninoff; his Beethoven variations were romantic; his Bach prelude rhythmic gaiety and strength in tone. Immediately he changed to brooding over Schumann's Nachtstuek and then took all the possible impression of dullness out of Schubert's impromptu. What Tausig did with Weber's fine old waltz and his own rewriting for piano of the Mendelssohn scherzo Rachmaninoff made immensely brilliant performance. Despite insistence by the audience Rachmaninoff refused extra numbers at intermission.

His own preludes were by turns seriously impressive and brilliant; his Chopin nocturne lyric and the ballade conceived as rising to dramatic climax such as few pianists can attain. His Liszt was magnificent technical dramatics; one rather believes that Rachmaninoff in his playing, in his dramatization of all he plays, in his constant search for and attainment of vividness, carries on the Liszt tradition. Yet noble music, he plays nobly, and his recitals make piano playing as exciting as it musically can be. He furnished last night, with program and extra numbers at the end, an excellent finale for the Eastman Theater evening concerts of this season.