

Rachmaninoff Again Pleases Music Lovers

Master Pianist Presents
Recital Before Well
Filled Auditorium.

By June Mull.

For the second time in the last few years Sergei Rachmaninoff, one of the greatest of contemporary pianists and composers, gave a recital before a Muncie audience, appearing last evening at the Masonic Temple auditorium under the auspices of the Past Masters Club of the Edmund Burke Ball Chapter of DeMolay. The distinguished Russian's welcome last evening was no less enthusiastic than that accorded his earlier recital in the same auditorium a few years ago.

The tall, sombre genius, who at the age of seventeen was the winner of a gold medal for an opera, "Aleko" produced at the Moscow opera who later won fame as a conductor, and who now lives in America, exiled from his native country, brought to his audience the same consummate artistry which has thrilled audiences the world over.

Plays Two of Own Preludes.

Rachmaninoff opened his program with a Bach composition, "Sonata in E major," unfamiliar to most of his listeners but rarely beautiful. Schubert's "Rondo in D major" and the four movements of the Chopin composition, "Sonata in B minor, opus 58" comprised the remainder of the first half of the program.

In the second half the pianist brought a selection of more familiar compositions to his listeners. Three short Chopin numbers, "Valse", "Nocturne" and "Ballade" were played, the well known "Nocturne" receiving great applause. Equally appreciated were the two preludes of the pianist's own composition which followed. These two preludes were the only pieces of his own which the composer selected for the program proper last night.

Scarcely recognizable in its arrangement by Tausig and in the modern treatment in its interpretation was the familiar "Invitation to the Dance," by Weber. Expecting to hear an old familiar, the audience was surprised and delighted to hear it harmonized with new colors and shadings, suavely executed.

Offers Popular Composition

As a concluding number Rachmaninoff played his own arrangement of a scherzo from Mendelssohn's "Midsummer Night's Dream", a lively, intriguing theme which might have provided an admirable close to the evening had the audience been content to let it be so.

Giving way, no doubt, to a demand which he knew he must meet sooner or later, Rachmaninoff played as his first encore the "Prelude in C sharp minor", his most popular composition, so synonymous with his name that he has jokingly autographed photos with it.

It is a rare satisfaction to an audience to hear the composer himself play the prelude and it must certainly be regarded as a gracious gesture when one considers the number of times he must have had to play it and the changes which must have occurred in his ideas since he wrote it.

Audience Enthusiastic

The second encore was "The Flight of the Bee", by Rimsky-Korsakoff, and the third, an exciting and charming bit of melody was Schumann's "Smugglers' Song", arranged by Tausig.

Needless to say the entire program was one of exquisite beauty with the stamp of authentic artistry in every phrase. The audience last night was a sincere one in its close attention and in its enthusiastic appreciation.

Many students were in the audience. Thirty Central High School music department students were in the balcony of the auditorium. Several of the students and also adult members of the audience went backstage after the concert and were kindly received by the artist.