

Rachmaninoff Given Big Ovation In Piano Concert at Auditorium

Sergei Rachmaninoff, one of the world's foremost pianists, was accorded an ovation of tremendous proportion Thursday evening by an audience that seemed to out-number any of the previous large assemblages of the season in the city auditorium. His concert was the third of the All-Star Concert Series, sponsored by the Atlanta Philharmonic Society, Marvin McDonald, manager.

Rachmaninoff is cold and unsmiling to his audience. His bearing is dignified and aloof, but his whole self is unstintedly submerged in his art, and his performances are revelations that make one feel that they have had the special privilege of enjoying a rare something that is seldom offered humans. His entire program was imbued with the most exquisite musical taste. His technical agility was beyond description. His muscular control, which allowed relaxation to be mingled with power, tenderness of tone to be mingled with drama, was to be marveled at. His interpretations moved the listener to worship of the beautiful.

Rachmaninoff played the "Moonlight Sonata" of Beethoven for his opening number. The tonal beauty of the first movement, the dainty grace of the middle movement, and the brilliant fervor of the last movement, made this sonata a memorable introduction to a memorable concert.

Rachmaninoff's own transcription of the Bach "Sonata in E major for violin alone," reveled in an infinite clarity of tonal enunciation and an unthinkable keyboard dexterity. To this reviewer's taste, this was the piece de resistance of the program, although Schubert's "Rondo in D major" held nearly equal honors. This latter work was like an intricate lace-pattern of tone, so easily wrought in unblemished beauty in the hands of a master.

The Debussy Suite, consisting of "Prelude," "Sarabande," and "Tocatta," closed the first half of the program. The "Prelude" and the "Tocatta" were outstandingly brilliant and richly colored.

After intermission a Chopin group offered "Valse in A flat major," an opus not so hackneyed on the concert stage, and gratefully appreciated, and "Ballade in A flat," given a different interpretation which unfolded new loveliness in this age-old favorite. Two of Rachmaninoff's own Preludes, G major and G minor, followed, played with an inspiration that

perhaps none by the composer would ever be able to catch.

Two numbers, "The Invitation to the Dance," Weber-Tausig, and "Scherzo" from "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Mendelssohn-Rachmaninoff, made a brilliant finale to his program, leaving such a musical thrill that the audience with seeming accord surged to the stage in a vast crowd and demanded more and more. This was graciously granted in three encores, Tschaikowsky's "Troika," Rachmaninoff's "Prelude in C sharp minor," and "Kopak," Mossourgsky-Rachmaninoff.

—MOZELLE HORTON.

GERMANY TO LIBERATE POLITICAL PRISONERS

BERLIN, Dec. 7.—(AP)—Vice Chancellor Herrmann Wilhelm Goering has a Christmas gift in store for 5,000 political prisoners in Prussia.

He ordered today a mass liberation of "concentration camp inmates" shortly before the holidays in a circular issued to special divisions of the secret police.

Goering stated the nazi regime was now "thoroughly entrenched" and that maintenance of order within the state and suppression of Marxist and communist movements would continue.

M'CUTCHEON VICTOR BY VOTE OF 1,689-1,319

Former Councilman Howard C. McCutcheon defeated his opponent, Warren W. Leak, second ward councilman, by a vote of 1,689 to 1,319, in the only contest in the general election held Wednesday, according to official returns compiled Thursday.

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