

## Crowd Applauds Rachmaninoff as Warmly as Ever

By STEWART B. SABIN

### Program

Toccata and Fugue, D minor..... Bach-Tausig  
Sonata, Opus 10, No. 3..... Beethoven  
Ballade, G. Minor..... Brahms  
Tarantelle..... Chopin  
Mazurka..... Chopin  
Scherzo..... Chopin  
Prelude..... Rachmaninoff  
Moment Musicale..... Rachmaninoff  
Oriental Sketch..... Rachmaninoff  
Funerales..... Liszt  
Dance of the Gnomes..... Liszt  
Rhapsody, No. II..... Liszt

Sergei Rachmaninoff came back once more to the Eastman Theater last night as the first recitalist of the evening series of concerts. An audience closely approaching capacity came to hear him and warmly applauded his playing, as is the habit of audiences, seeking in vain at the end of the first section for extra numbers.

Rachmaninoff is dramatic by natural endowment; at the piano he is a dramatic figure absorbed in his task. Such technic as he is bound to run to exciting moments. When it is considered, as it must be to give this artist his due, that musical knowledge is his beyond that of most performers, that his taste and style are products of judgment tempered in the fire of lively imagination, high achievement is logically expected. And at times in each performance heard by the writer through the years there has been achievement of beauty, drama and revelation in Rachmaninoff's playing.

It was so last night, Rachmaninoff adheres more closely than do most of his peers to the static piano repertory. He plays his own music on occasion, but this music belongs to established form of composition, not to experimental or even forward-looking writing. One believes that he plays only music that he admires and feels keen sympathy for; and he has not found it merely expedient to play other music.

His Bach last night was not particularly impressive to the writer, perhaps because the Tausig version of the great music has never been over-appealing. But the Beethoven, one of simply charming sonatas of a comparatively early opus, was delightful, the playing that of a genuine stylist. One hears Brahms's ballades less often than their worth warrants and the one last night was most enjoyable. In the Chopin group came some wonderful playing, wonderful in its communicated vitality and tonal loveliness. It is a delight to hear a man play ideas; lots of people can play notes. Rachmaninoff's own three pieces were nicely pianistic, excellently played. The Liszt group was chosen with judgment as to contrast and it was given performance in the grand manner. The audience at the end got some extra numbers, the first the C Sharp Minor prelude, later an original transcription from Berlioz and then still more.