

# RACHMANINOFF SCORES AGAIN

## Composer - Virtuoso Sets High Mark in Fine Program Here.

Serge Rachmaninoff, composer-virtuoso, never within the hearing of this reviewer, played the piano better than he did last night at Syria Mosque. The concert was the second of the May Beegle series. A large audience wasted no time showing that they appreciated a performance that was deeply moving.

Mr. Rachmaninoff's program was conservative, but his playing of it was magnificent. With seemingly inexhaustible resources, he exhibited all the best in piano playing. He was fluent, penetrating, commanding, and technical difficulties seemed not to exist for him.

After an exuberant performance of Tausig's arrangement of Bach's Toccato and Fugue in D Minor, Mr. Rachmaninoff played Beethoven's Sonata in D Major, Opus 10, No. 3. Its second movement was meditative and eloquent almost beyond belief. The Brahms Ballade in G Minor was the least successful number. It seemed to want spontaneity. Chopin's Mazurka was delightful, among other things, for changeable moods. The playing in Chopin's Scherzo was that of a giant; the manner in which Mr. Rachmaninoff played the octaves and varied the graceful decorations of this work was amazing. They were liquid and crystal-clear. A group of his own compositions—Prelude, Moment Musical and Oriental Sketch—kept aloof from impressionism, yet they were colorful and richly imaginative. His playing of the Liszt numbers was something new. Mr. Rachmaninoff emphasized musical values and ignored many chances to display his virtuosity.

His encores included his own arrangement of Bizet's Minuet, Rimsky-Korsakoff's Flight of the Bumble Bee, and the inevitable C Sharp Minor Prelude.

NEAL WEIBEL.