

## MUSIC LOVERS HAIL PIANIST

### Rachmaninoff Plays to Audience of 1,400 at Civic Concert

By JOHN D. CHEQUER

An audience of 1400, one of the largest and most enthusiastic ever in attendance at a performance in the civic concert series, welcomed the world-famous pianist-composer, Sergei Rachmaninoff, last Saturday night in his recital at the Wood auditorium.

The program which consisted of the works of Handel, Scarlatti, Chopin, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Wagner and Strauss, many of which had been adapted and arranged by him, revealed a versatile genius whose consummate technical skill and interpretive ability breathed a vital spark into all the works performed.

It was a different Rachmaninoff who appeared last Saturday night. The severe austerity which he evidenced in his performance some years ago at the Woman's Club was at no time in evidence. It was a great musician, confident yet humble in his art, who entered upon the stage, graciously smiling in response to the warmth of welcome extended to him.

#### Chronology Followed

The program, which was arranged with an almost historic chronology, opened with Handel's "Theme and Variations in E-Major;" and Three Sonatas by Scarlatti, displaying the works of the purely classic school, composed for harpsichord. Chopin's brilliant "Sonata in B-minor," representing the full liberation of the pianoforte from traditional orchestral and choral influences and its authoritative assumption of a place as a solo instrument, closed the first half of the program.

The second half of the program introduced the Romantic and Modern Schools and included Schumann's lovely "Nachtstuck;" and two arrangements by Rachmaninoff — "The Brooklet" from Schubert's "Die Schone Mullerin," and the "Scherzo" from Mendelssohn's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" music.

These were followed by an "Etude," one of his own compositions; Liszt's arrangement of Wagner's "Spinning Song" from "Der Fliegende Hollander;" Louis Frassin's arrangement of the "Magic Fire Music" from "Die Walkure" by Wagner; and a concert arrangement of one of the Strauss Waltzes by Tausig.

#### Plays Own Work

In response to thunderous applause Rachmaninoff returned to play one of Chopin's waltzes and his own ever popular, descriptive "Prelude in C-sharp Minor."

We asked him, in his dressing room following the performance, if there was anything to the story that he was thinking of the bells of Moscow when he wrote his famous "Prelude." This story has existed for years. His reply was "Sorry, no, nothing to it." He also told an interesting story relative to this same Prelude. Upon its publication, it met with such tremendous success that his publishers immediately wrote him for not write for compensation, but by inspiration." It was twenty years later before the almost equally famous "Prelude in G-Minor" was written and published.

Mount Vernon is greatly indebted to the Teachers' Association for making possible the appearance of this great artist. The next in this series of civic concerts will be the Maganini Chamber Symphony which will be presented on Wednesday evening, Nov. 13.