

Rachmaninoff Plays At Lyric

Russian Pianist Pleases Large Audience — "A Midsummer Night's Dream" Visits Far Places

By DONALD KIRKLEY

NO CONCERT SEASON would be complete without a visit from Sergei Rachmaninoff, a pianist who has maintained a firm grip on the affections and the imagination of concert-goers for a good many years. The long, unsmiling master visited the Lyric Theater last night, there to receive with his unshakable air of indifference the customary plaudits of a large audience.

The composer-pianist was not quite at his best last night. His performance may be described as good but not, as is often the case in his concerts, sensational. As was the case two years ago, three composers, Chopin, Liszt and Rachmaninoff, figured largely in the program. These three wrote eight of the eleven scheduled numbers and one of the three encores. Holding to a high level of excellence, the pianist gave a full measure of satisfaction, but there were fewer flashes of brilliance than usual.

A consistent level was maintained throughout the first three sections, the Bach-Tausig "Toccata and Fugue in D Minor," the Beethoven "Sonata, Opus 10, No. 3" and the Brahms "Ballade." In the following Chopin group, Rachmaninoff played with that imagination and grace which is peculiarly his own. Of the three Chopin compositions, the "Tarantelle" and "Scherzo" were outstanding.

The fifth group consisted of two works by the pianist himself, a rippling, pleasant "Prelude" and an "Oriental Sketch," which was good to hear but somewhat obscure as to purport. The pianist flared brilliantly again in Liszt's "Funerailles" and again in Liszt's "Rhapsodie No. 11," remarkable for the beautiful tone achieved, and in this writer's opinion the most delightful piece on the program. Liszt's "Dance of the Gnomes" also was executed with high polish.

The added numbers included Rimsky-Korsakoff's "Flight of the Bumble-Bee," which is now a favorite encore with many concert artists. Following a custom of long standing, Rachmaninoff made his exit with what has become his musical signature, the "Prelude."

For Today

AUDITORIUM—Helen Hayes in the American premiere of "Victoria Regina," a play by Laurence Housman, produced by Gilbert Miller. It is a long play, and Mr. Miller announced yesterday the curtain will rise at 8.30 P. M. sharp. There will be four performances — three nights and Saturday matinee.

STANLEY—"Stars Over Broadway," a cinemusical featuring Pat O'Brien, Frank McHugh, Jean Muir, Jane Froman, James Melton and Phil Regan.

In New Film



PAT O'BRIEN

He has a leading role in "Stars Over Broadway," cinemusical, which opens today at the Stanley Theater.

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