

## Rachmaninoff Here in Concert Tonight

This evening at the Memorial auditorium Racine music lovers will have the rare privilege of enjoying a concert program by the great pianist and composer, Sergei Vassilievitch Rachmaninoff.

This world-famed artist might be called a connecting link between old traditions and new ideals. His technic is eclectic. He knows the modern German and French masters. His creative gifts, however, are his own, and he is a Russian. He stands midway between futurism and impressionism, and relies on his own great resources of imagination to create his fine individual works. It has been said of him: "Among living Russian composers, Rachmaninoff unquestionably occupies the first place because of his pronounced inventive power and finely developed sense of tonal beauty." He has composed in practically all forms, and in each has a record of notable accomplishment. A concert pianist of distinguished ability, and a skilled and experienced conductor, Rachmaninoff's attitude toward his art as an inspirational means of interpretation is modern and "the world he looks out upon in his music is one of dim distances, golden lights and shadows, and fateful and steady motion."

Interesting is the fact that Rachmaninoff, who has been so active in the triple role of composer, conductor, and concert pianist, has always restricted himself to one particular field for the time being. As he once said of himself: "The whole time of my musical activity thus far—some 24 years—might be divided roughly, into three periods of approximately eight years of each, of composing, concert work, and conducting. When I am concertizing I can not compose; when I feel like writing music, I have to concentrate on that—I can not touch the piano; when I am conducting I can neither compose nor play concerts. Other musicians may be more fortunate in this respect; but I have to concentrate on any one thing I am doing to such a degree that it does not seem to allow me to take up anything else. When composing, I am a slave. Beginning at 9 in the morning I allow myself no respite until after 11 at night. A poem, a picture, something concrete, helps me immensely."

Perhaps this attitude of mind, this inner law compelling at all times an absolute devotion to the matter in hand has not been without its influence on the quality of his achievement in all three fields of accomplishment.