

**RUSSIAN PIANIST'S RECITAL.****Rachmaninoff Pleases Large Audience in Montclair High School Auditorium.**

For the ante-penultimate entertainment of Unity Concert Course the patrons on Wednesday night at the High School Auditorium were offered Sergei Rachmaninoff, who gave a recital of music for the piano that will linger preciously in the memory of those who heard this famous pianist-composer. As has been the case at the preceding recitals by Fritz Kreisler and Anna Case, every seat in the auditorium was filled, but the stage was reserved alone for the pianist, whose artistic temperament was intolerant of such an intimate audience as listened from the wrong side of the footlights to the brilliant violinist and the engaging singer. Preceding the recital, Edgar S. Wiers submitted a word on behalf of the local movement to raise funds for the Hoover fund, and especially for attendance at the \$50-a-plate dinner, which, he said would make up in spirituality what it lacked epicureanly.

It was a formidable task of interpretation that was set for Rachmaninoff in the announced program, for it included such exacting masters as Liszt, Chopin, Mozart and R. Schumann. In addition, the Russian pianist played works of his own, which were revelatory of his composite genius as pianist and composer.

Rachmaninoff took his place at the piano with an air which was almost an obeisance to the great instrument, before which he sat, a saturnine, brooding figure that proceeded to evoke harmonies with unimpassioned abandon.

Beginning with the "Chaconne" of Bach-Buzoni and the "Papillons" of R. Schuman, the pianist earned so much applause that he responded to an encore with the soothing "Spinning Song" by Mendelssohn, which was followed by Mozart's Theme and Variations. Chopin, to whom the composer seemed partial, was introduced by his nocturne in F sharp minor, which was followed by a valse in F major, a mazurka in A flat major and a polonaise in C minor. The masterly exposition of the varying moods of these compositions was followed by an encore, still another Chopin number, a valse in E flat major. Following these came Rachmaninoff's own composition, "Polichinelle," and a barcarolle, which were played with serene mastery and brilliancy. Then the artist played what might be termed the chef d'oeuvre of the evening, the familiar Rhapsodie No. 2 of Liszt, embellished with a characteristic cadenza by Rachmaninoff himself. The insistence of the audience brought two additions to a notable program—a prelude in C sharp minor by Rachmaninoff, and a valse in C sharp minor by Chopin.

All the numbers were played by Rachmaninoff with a deep poetic insight and a thoughtful recognition of the subtler moods of the composers. In the Liszt rhapsodie, more probably than elsewhere, Rachmaninoff displayed a spirit that revealed the smoldering fires of his Slavic nature, giving a truly magnificent performance of this great work. His technique was splendid, and altogether his recital gave a full measure of delight to an audience that responded with enthusiasm to the magic of a tremendous personality and an amazing virtuosity.