

Encores Prolong Program of Rachmaninoff at Murat

The first public piano recital of the Indianapolis musical season, given Sunday afternoon at the Murat theater by Sergei Rachmaninoff, satisfied the cravings of many persons for piano music, coming as it did after numerous vocal concerts by singers of good, bad and indifferent attainments and being representative of all the qualities of a real musical genius. He played to a large audience, which so appreciated his art that it recalled him for repeated bows, and at several points insisted on his prolonging his program with encores.

He took up the beautiful theme of Mozart's Sonata No. 9, the opening number, and delicately embroidered it throughout its variations with the most exquisite phrasing and a vivid lightness of touch. As the program progressed, the tonal colors varied from lovely pastel shades to those of richer, warmer hues and finally flashed and sparkled like crystal clear waters in the sunlight. Tone and facile technique are blended perfectly and back of it all is thoughtfulness and individualism.

From the sonata the pianist went immediately into Schumann's "Papillon," and followed it with Mendelssohn's "Spinning Song," gently accented and of fairy lightness. Then came a Chopin group, a "Ballade," "Barcarolle" and two waltzes in E flat major and G flat major, with the F major waltz added as an encore. The pianist's own "Polichinelle" and "Barcarolle" formed the fourth programmed number and although he was applauded vigorously, he refrained from giving another encore until after the final number, Liszt's "Rhapsodie Espagnole." This was a test for bravura style, which was so successfully and brilliantly met that the applause became more than ever insistent until the favorite Rachmaninoff prelude in C sharp minor and "The Gollwog's Cakewalk" were added. There was at least one in the audience who wished that the formality of the program might have been waived and some of the music of the pianist's own countrymen had been included. The concert was one of the series of the Ona B. Talbot Fine Arts Association.