

RACHMANINOFF GIVES RECITAL AT SMITH

Famous Pianist Performs Brilliantly — Large Audi- ence Hears Him

Northampton, March 8—One of the largest audiences of the season greeted Sergei Rachmaninoff at Smith college this evening, on the occasion of his pianoforte recital. From the opening bars of the Bach Chaconne to the close of the last encore the pianist carried his audience with him, irresistibly. With him it is not a matter of technique. It is the compelling power of a great mind, which understands beyond question the music played and impresses convincingly his interpretations upon the minds of his hearers.

If particulars need be mentioned, comment might well be made upon the tremendous massiveness shown in the Bach-Busoni Chaconne, the freedom in both rhythm and dynamics in many passages of the Beethoven Sonata, always dictated by keen, poetic insight; and upon the striking contrasts in pace, touch, and phrasing in the successive pictures of the Schumann Papillons. Here, as elsewhere in the program, a notable restraint was apparent in Rachmaninoff's use of the pedal. He never allows the pedal to blur his finely-judged staccato passages, nor to mar his clean phrasing.

Especial interest was attached to the playing of two of his own compositions, the preludes in G major and B flat major, both strikingly beautiful numbers, abounding in effects of color, and absolutely unlike the favorite prelude in C sharp minor, which is more elemental in its emotional content and simpler in outline and in technical demands.

Encores were freely given in response to insistent demands. Among these being the Mendelssohn "Spinning Song," and a major song without words, No 47, and his own C sharp minor prelude.

Rachmaninoff has matured immensely since his former appearance at Smith college, about 12 years ago, the occasion being his first public recital given in America. He was strikingly sincere and impressive then. He has become one of the greatest masters of pianoforte playing and of music.

The following is the program:—

Chaconne	Bach-Busoni
Sonata, E minor, op. 90	Beethoven
Allegro.	
Andante.	
Papillons	Schumann
(a) Nocturne	Chopin
(b) Waltz	Chopin
(c) Polonaise, C minor	Chopin
Children's Corner	Debussy
(a) Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum.	
(b) Serenade of a Doll.	
(c) The Little Shepherd.	
(d) Gollwogg's Cake Walk.	
Two Preludes—	
G major	Rachmaninoff
B flat major	Rachmaninoff