

Rachmaninoff Charms Hearers

Concert Thursday Night Most Successful in City's Mu- sical History.

The Rachmaninoff concert given Thursday night at the Wyatt auditorium was the most successful and artistic piano recital ever offered in Chattanooga.

Rachmaninoff was known here only by reputation, but proved himself to be in the first rank of the world's great pianists. Both technically and temperamentally he measures up to any. His playing of the Beethoven sonata opus 13 evinced his deep thought and study.

Technical difficulties do not seem to exist for him, and his interpretations of the varying styles of the different numbers were most delightful to hear.

The Chopin group demonstrated his versatility. The brilliant Ballad and Polonaise and rather sombre nocturne, in widely contrasting moods, being performed exactly as the composer evidently intended. His playing of the nocturne and his own popular prelude held the audience spellbound.

The Bright Polka of his own composition was played with a dash and élan that brought rapturous applause from the audience.

The well-known "Invitation to the Dance," by Von Weber, arranged by Tausig, is probably the most brilliant number ever heard in this city.

The elaborate arrangement of it by Tausig when played by an artist of such attainments as Rachmaninoff is like a burst of skyrocket on a dark sky. Rachmaninoff's art beggars description. Such virtuosity and dynamics are rare and hearers can enjoy, but cannot give an adequate description.

The same may be said of the brilliant

etude by Dohnanyi, and for that matter of the Liszt "Tarantella."

Rachmaninoff plays all these most difficult numbers with an ease and sureness that are most delightful to hear. He was enthusiastically applauded and responded with several encores.

After the concert a number of the local musicians met Rachmaninoff personally. He is very tall and very dignified. He shook hands cordially with every one, but said very little.

He leaves Friday to fill other engagements, but those who heard him will never forget his wonderful recital.

STEFANSSON AND COBB

To Be Heard Here Under Aus- pices Optimists.

Prof. Spencer J. McCallie, newly-installed president of the Kiwanis club, has written President S. R. Read, of the Optimist club in regard to the course of lectures to be given this month and next at the Chattanooga High school auditorium, under the auspices of the Optimist club. His letter follows:

"I think the Optimist club is to be congratulated over the type of men that they are bringing here this winter. It is an educational feature to hear such men as Cobb and Stefansson. I shall take pleasure in calling attention of the officials of the Kiwanis club to the known ability of these two speakers. In the meantime you and the Optimist club have my best wishes for utmost success."

The first of the two lectures will be Friday, Jan. 27, when Vilhjalmur, noted Arctic explorer, will give his illustrated lecture, "My Five Years in the Arctic;" Irvin S. Cobb, the second attraction, will be heard in his new lecture, "Fifty-Fifty," on Tuesday evening, Feb. 28.

The advance sale of reserved seat season tickets for the two attractions is now in progress, being conducted from the Optimist club office on the lobby floor of the Read house. Those purchasing season tickets have the advantage of first selection of seats and a substantial reduction in price for the combined attractions.