

RACHMANINOFF A GREAT ARTIST

Russian Master of the Piano
Heard Here Last Night.

Noted Musician's Attractive
Program Delights Audience
at Wyatt Auditorium.

It was not as large an audience as should have been there but every one who attended the Rachmaninoff recital in the Wyatt auditorium last night must have departed with the conviction that one of the greatest, if not the greatest, pianist of our time had been heard. The great Russian artist has a rare musical personality that catches and holds one in its grasp, a manner commanding yet without exaggeration.

Rachmaninoff's program last evening ranged from the preludes and other short, fanciful pieces, perfectly understandable to the amateur, through exacting works of large dimensions which brought into play all his pianistic powers. This was especially evident in the highly classical "Sonata Pathetique," by Beethoven. Here, indeed, the artist exhibited his mastery of the keyboard, proof of his remarkable technical powers and his true virtuoso instinct for the piano.

Chopin's characteristic dances were truly a delight. He played them with rare insight and imagination and showed again his signal ability as an interpretive artist.

Rachmaninoff is also a composer of note and an especially cordial reception was given last evening to his own music that was a part of the program—"Prelude in C Sharp Minor" and "Polka de W. R." It was like the soul of a great poet delivering itself of beautiful thoughts and here, as throughout the evening, he impressed the listener that this artist belongs to that limited and exalted company known as master-pianists.

The Weber-Tausig "Invitation to the Dance" and Dohangis' "Etude" were numbers which displayed admirably his command of nuance and tone color, the deftness, vigor and perfection of his touch. Liszt's magnificent and thrilling "Tarantalla" was the last number on the program, and after the artist had responded to an insistent demand for an encore the delightful musical evening was over.

Unquestionably, there was genuine enthusiasm over the great artist's playing. He was generous with his encores, and, like the numbers on the printed program, they were delightful, understandable and impressive. It was a recital in general of music that all who know the piano at all are familiar with, a fact referred to cordially by one auditor, who herself is a pianoforte artist.

There is no question that Chattanooga music-lovers were face to face last night with true greatness.