THE CONCERT LAST NIGHT

A tall, stooped man walked quietly and unostentatiously to the center of the stage of the high school auditorium, last night, seated himself at the piano and with none of the affectations which we have come to expect in artists, began to play.

This was Topeka's introduction to Sergei Washihiewitsch Rachmaninoff. who played a program of unusual interest and brilliancy.

The first group of numbers was notable for the clarity and simplicity of his playing of classical music. His

interpretation of Chopin was most original and the numbers composing this group were unquestionably the high lights of his performance. The "Ballade," as played by Rachmaninoff, was one of the loveliest things the writer has ever heard.

Of greatest interest to his audience, possibly, was his playing of his own compositions, the famous "Prelude in C-sharp minor" and the "Polka de W. R.," a concert version of a little composition of his father's. After the exaggerated interpretations of the "Prelude" by average pianists it is a treat to hear the true artist's conception.

Rachmaninoff's playing typifies the ruggedness and sadness of the Russian people. Nevertheless in his rendition of Chopin's waltz in C-sharp minor, commonly known as "The Minute Waltz" and the Bizet "Minuet," he showed a playfulness and lightness that was a delightful surprise to his audience.

Rachmaninoff ranks among the world's greatest composers and pianists. He is compared with Josef Hoffman in the consummate artistry of his interpretations. His technique, while not so collossal as that of Llevinne, is absolutely flawless, as evidenced by his Liszt numbers, which were distinguished by brilliancy and perfection. His hearers were deeply impressed with the profound feeling and wealth of expression of his performance.

He has a magnetic personality and one cannot help noting his utter simplicity and lack of mannerisms. His audience last night was made up of music lovers, who showed keen appreciation and were most generous with their applause.   M. M. P.