

RACHMANINOFF SCORES HEAVILY BEFORE CROWD

Largest Audience of the Season
Hears Famous Pianist
and Composer.

IS KEENLY APPRECIATIVE

Numbers Take on New Meaning
Under Skillful Fingering of
Great Musician.

Memorial hall was crowded, Wednesday night, by an audience keenly appreciative of the work of one of the world's greatest living musicians, Sergei Rachmaninoff, composer and pianist. The bringing of such an artist, the Civic Music league has brought the best to its patrons, and an audience surpassing all previous ones of the season, bore evidence to their desire for that best.

An unfortunate delay in car service detained many concert patrons, with the result not until the beginning of the second group did Rachmaninoff receive the attention due him. Even with this, the Beethoven "Sonata Pathetique" stood out as one of the inspirations of the evening.

Just as a story told by an artist can take on new truths, so this great Beethoven Sonata and the Chopin, "Barcarolle," "Valse" and "Polonaise" following closely, were given added meaning under the hands of this great master. Repeated ovations brought encores to both the first and second groups, while the same enthusiasm continued through the remaining groups from an audience that would have had more, even after one response had been given to the concluding number.

Little wonder when that number was the Liszt, "Second Rhapsodie" played by Rachmaninoff. If that alone had been the program, someone said, we should have had a concert. Rachmaninoff's arrangement of Kreisler's "Liebeslied" was given as encore and other numbers might have been added had not the artist suffered a slight sprain in one of his fingers, during the concert.

"Two Fairy Stories" by Nicolas Medtner were interesting novelty numbers. Nymphs and elves clearly could be heard in the first, while the second quite as clearly contained a rumbling orgy or two.

A ripple of applause greeted the first chords of the famous, "Prelude in C-sharp minor." In the playing of such a piece, one wonders what might be the thoughts of the composer. Certainly the performance of a composition so much a part of himself is purely secondary. Another of his own compositions, "Daisies" was the opening number of this group.

Memories of the Rachmaninoff concert will live long in the minds of the league's patrons and many musical classics will be approached with new feeling, since the hearing of the great master. M. E. M.