

RACHMANINOFF GAVE WONDERFUL CONCERT

Great Audience at Armory Entertained by His Playing.

To attempt to describe the concert which Sergei Rachmaninoff gave last evening at the Armory seems utterly useless. It was like no other concert one ever heard, unless one has heard Sergei Rachmaninoff before and it seems impossible that anyone, even so great an artist, should give a concert quite as marvelous as last night's twice in his career. Sergei Rachmaninoff is like no other pianist.

His playing was flowing, brilliant, with a certain quality of sureness, of maturity, of poise; now delicate as old lace, but with its theme, its pattern always distinct, always clear. He stirred one's emotions but always through one's intellect.

It is doubtful if anyone in that huge audience that heard him last evening will ever forget his playing of the four Chopin compositions; and the heart-tugging quality he put into them or brought out.

Of his own compositions he gave three, No. four a sweet, little song transcription with a surprising end "Daisies," a lively "Polka" and a charming minuet. He gave two encores and that was exceedingly generous of him when one considers the scope of the stated program. One encore was what the entire audience hoped for, evidently, for it greeted with stern applause the first notes of his grandly majestic, world famous, "Prelude in C Sharp."

It was all that was needed to make the concert one to go down in Scranton's musical history, to have other musical events dated "before and after." The other encore was a familiar Chopin Valse, played following the Chopin group.

The Liszt "Rhapsodie No. 2," has been played often, perhaps by every great artist, not to mention every ambitious student of music, yet never as Rachmaninoff plays it, with a cadenza by himself.

In the first group of selections was included Beethoven's "Sonata Pathétique," the andante and the allegro movements were marvelous. It is rather to be regretted though that between the first and second movements the theme was somewhat broken by the prolonged applause and more by the seating of late-comers.

The concert last evening was one of the Kerstina series being given under the direction of Chauncey C. Hand.