

RACHMANINOFF HAD UNUSUAL AUDIENCE

Enthusiasts Who Arrived Late at His Majesty's Were Turned Away From Theatre

RECITAL WAS BRILLIANT

Composer Terminated Fine Programme by Playing His Own Famous C Sharp Minor Prelude

It was a most enthusiastic audience which greeted Serger Rachmaninoff at His Majesty's Theatre yesterday afternoon, and it was a record audience for that house. Not only were all the available seats occupied, but all the boxes were taken, even to the lofty cubbles near the top of the proscenium arch. Additional chairs were placed in the side aisles and on the stage, and yet a considerable number of persons were compelled to stand. At three o'clock it was necessary to announce that no more space was for sale and intending purchasers with ready money at hand were compelled to leave without an opportunity of listening to the celebrated pianist. The enthusiasm engendered by the very fine programme, and the art of the performer, were such as to impel quite a number of persons of both sexes to remain in the alleyway outside the stage entrance to further voice their appreciation of Rachmaninoff. It was a most unusual audience and one keenly appreciative of the artist.

Rachmaninoff had arranged a pleasant programme and in doing so paid tribute to the romantic aspect rather than to the severely technical form so frequently offered. In this way the performer reached the emotional side of his audience as well as appealing to their intellectual qualities. The moderns and the contemporary musicians were largely represented in the compositions offered. As one responsible for such a considerable advance in modern technique, in which he shares honors with Brahms, Debussy and Ravel, Rachmaninoff creates such stir of interest that all of his work must command respectful attention. His own characteristics were admirably illustrated yesterday in all that he did. His brilliant virtuosity was again marked, but, perhaps, of greater human interest was his dis-

play of delightful tone-coloring, and the warmth, clearness and lucidity of execution visible throughout the performance.

PLEASANT ATMOSPHERE.

To begin the programme Rachmaninoff played two delightful ballads, one of Liszt, the other of Grieg, and his interpretation at once established a pleasant atmosphere. The audience so warmly applauded the initial group that the pianist returned to his instrument and played the air and variations of Handel. The second portion of the programme was the Chopin group beginning with a ballade, followed by a nocturne, a valse and Scherzo. These four compositions were played with the true brilliancy of a Chopin admirer, the Scherzo being a sheer delight. In response to really thunderous applause, Rachmaninoff returned and completed the Chopin group by adding to it the Posthumous Valse.

"Two Fairy Stories" by Medtner proved to be pleasant frolics. There followed a group of three compositions of the artist himself, which included an etude, "Paquerettes," which being daisies, had the true summery touch, and a prelude in B flat major. The final number was the Liszt tarantelle, "Venezia e Napoli," which was played with fine dash and color. To these numbers Rachmaninoff added two additional compositions. The first of these was "Trolka en traineaux," of Tschalkowsky, which was given with great brilliancy. The final was his own Prelude in C sharp minor, the ambition and the despair of every amateur pianist, and which is frequently dashed off by aspiring vaudeville performers. It is to be hoped that some of these will have the good fortune to hear the composer play the work, after which it is possible that the world at large may be spared some of the atrocities. As Rachmaninoff struck the opening chords the enthusiastic audience broke into applause, which was quickly silenced as he proceeded.

COL. DENNIS TO SPEAK

Will be Guest of Kiwanis Club
March 16

Col. J. S. Dennis, chief commissioner of colonization and development for the C.P.R., will speak on colonization and development, making special reference to immigration at the luncheon of the Kiwanis Club on March 16.

Recognizing that Canada's industrial and trade future to a great extent depends upon a revival of effort

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