

RACHMANINOFF RIGHTLY NAMED GENIUS OF TONE

Pianist Scores Success in Concert of Varied and Diffi- cult Numbers.

A tall, gaunt man with shuffling gait, a close-cropped head, a friendly but almost whimsical expression, hunched over the keyboard and apparently without moving, sent forth from the great piano just a soft rippling scale of two. This man is the genius of tone, Rachmaninoff, and his concert yesterday afternoon at the Polish theatre was a memorable occasion for Bridgeport.

His first number was unusual, Sonata, Opus 90, by Beethoven. A long, difficult composition which brought into play all the musician's mastery of technique, ended in a peculiarly gentle mood in contrast to the smashing conclusions of so many of Beethoven's works. This was followed by Schumann's "Papillons," a brilliant, dashing, succession of ever-changing tonal shades.

Wonderful Tones

It was the third group of songs by Chopin, including the "Lullaby," "Nocturne," "Waltz," "Scherzo," that the audience was fully acquainted with. Rachmaninoff's absolute wizardry in obtaining tremendous variety of tone. It seems incredible that so little physical motion, his hands were rarely lifted more than an inch or so from the keys, could obtain such remarkable tones. Clarity clear they were, and again mellifluous as a harp.

Own Composition

His own mighty "Prelude" in C sharp minor, a composition of magnificent chords and tender melody, followed with another of his

works, "Polka de W. R.," a swinging, understandable bit of music.

Several Encores

The final group of songs opened with "Etude Capriccio," Opus 5, by Debussy, a composition of sparkling runs and intricate melody almost hidden in a mesh of delicate accompaniment. Then came the lovely "Liederlein," known to Rachmaninoff in an exquisite number, though the interpretation for the piano is more elaborate and possibly not quite as enjoyable as the more simple writing for the violin. A "L'air tarantelle," Venezia e Napoli, closed the program but the storm of applause brought several encores.

The loveliest of these was "Troika," the song of the Russian, which a crisp, sparkling, dazzling piece played with all the spirit of its inspiration and one of the most popular numbers of the afternoon.

WINDOW BROKEN

One of the large plate glass display windows located on the Fairfield avenue side of the D. M. Reed Co. store was broken early Sunday morning. It is believed a stone tossed by an automobile tire caused the damage. A stone the size of an egg was found on the floor.

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