

Rachmaninoff Plays to Capacity Audience

Rachmaninoff, the noted Russian composer-pianist, gave to a capacity audience assembled last evening at Irem Temple a recital of piano music such as has seldom been the privilege of local music lovers to hear and many enthusiastic concert goers unhesitatingly declared him to be the peer of all masters of the pianoforte who have been heard in this city.

Rachmaninoff is different from other artists in his stage presence. He affects no mannerisms and thus is far removed from the poseur. He acknowledged the storms of applause that followed each number by a few matter of fact bows, and then with the most serious mien, continued with the presentation of his program. He frequently prefaced a number by a few phrases of his own improvising.

The famous Russian's superb musicianship at no time permitted him to sacrifice the spirit of the composer for the display of his flawless technic. His meticulous pedaling and his infinitely wonderful touch were undoubtedly the secrets of his beautiful tone coloring. The infinite range of his tone gradations was revealed by the beautiful tones he caressed from the treble, which were clear even in the finest of pianissimos. He maintained throughout the performance a singing style of tone. He gave to everything its right dynamic value. The Etude Capriccio of Dohnanyi and Liszt's "Tarantella Venezia e Napoli" contained technical difficulties that a lesser artist would have found hard to surmount and the consummate ease with which Rachmaninoff interpreted the two compositions made the two numbers the most brilliant of the program. His conception of his own familiar "Prelude in C-sharp minor" must have been unexpected to a number of piano students, who include that work in their repertory, unless they had availed themselves of the opportunity afforded to hear the recording at the Am-

pico recital conducted last Friday by T. H. Rippard.

Rachmaninoff gave four encores, "Turkish March" by Mozart, and after the Chopin group, the familiar "Minute Waltz" of the famous Polish composer, and upon the conclusion of the program, he was called twice and gave "Trolka" by Tschalkowsky and Debussy's "Cakewalk," a characteristic sketch.

It was the last of the Irem Temple concerts of the season of 1921-1922 and attracted the largest number of people, many of whom stood during the entire performance because every available seat had been taken.

Rachmaninoff left last night for New York City where on April 2 he

will give a benefit with Damrosch's orchestra in Carnegie hall for the musicians, artists and men of letters of Russia, who are in the most desperate straits. Rachmaninoff and his family were obliged to flee from Russia and the former's large estates were seized by the Bolsheviks.

Railroad Official Drops Dead

Cleveland, O., March 23.—W. T. McCollough, aged 63, auditor of revenue of the New York Central Railroad, fell dead in the Nickle Plate offices late to-day. His body was taken to his home in Haworth, N. J., to-night.

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