

MAJESTY OF RACHMANINOFF TOUCHES 'RUSTY' CHORDS OF BIG AUDIENCE AT SPRECKELS

BY INEZ ANDERSON

Just what is it about Russian musicians that puts them in a class so entirely by themselves?

Other musicians may come and go, causing their individual ripples in varying degrees of intensity, but there is an aura of unsounded depths of great emotion about a Russian—of close companionship with tragedy and suffering, of nobility and majesty, that touches responsive chords of feeling in their hearers, chords which have become almost "rusty" from disuse.

Probably more interest never has been evidenced in the appearance of a pianist, locally, than in that of Sergei Rachmaninoff, great Russian pianist-composer, who played at the Spreckels theater last night. The audience filled the main auditorium and balconies, the boxes only containing a few vacant chairs.

Rachmaninoff was the characteristic Russian type—rugged, unostentatious, but always master of a great, turbulent seething emotion lying hidden under the calm exterior.

It appears superfluous to speak of the superlative technic, marvelous digital dexterity and power of the great pianist, for these were so obviously merely a means to an end—merely an "et cetera to the fact." And the "fact" was MUSIC—grave, gay, joyous, somber, grandioso, and misterioso, in all gradations of shadings and trceries, running the gamut of human emotions.

Pianists, particularly, were on the alert to get the composer's rendition of his own "Prelude in C Sharp Minor," and it is a safe guess that every pianist in the audience who is capable of it is working on the number in San Diego homes today. The Rachmaninoff serenade was the only other composition by the Russian programmed.

A Chopin waltz was given as

an encore to the Chopin group. Following the Strauss-Schultzevler arrangement of "The Beautiful Blue Danube," Rachmaninoff gave two encore numbers, much to the delight of the insistent audience.

It was a great concert. And now music lovers are on the quiver for the appearance of Paderewski, the great Pole, on Feb. 19, in order to compare the work of two of the greatest living pianists of the day.

DETROITERS TO SEND S. D. RADIO TONIGHT

Fred L. Edwards of the Independent Electrical Co. here received a telegram today from his brothers and sisters in Detroit, Mich., reading as follows:

"Tune in WWJ tonight, 11 to 12 eastern time, for birthday congratulations.—Bert, Helen, Lawrence and Katharine."

Station WWJ is the Detroit News broadcasting on a 485-meter wave length. The paper puts on a concert on Thursday nights between 8 and 9, Pacific coast time, for the benefit of Pacific coast listeners. The distance from Detroit to San Diego is approximately 2000 miles in an air line. This concert does not come during the listening period, between 7:30 and 8, but there will undoubtedly be many who will pick up the message, and Edwards will appreciate hearing from anyone who receives it.

Crandall to Speak

Prof. W. C. Crandall of the Scripps Biological Institute will be the speaker at the University club's luncheon tomorrow noon. "Fertility of the Sea," will be his subject and he will divide the topic into sub-topics listed as "Cycles of life."