

CAPACITY AUDIENCE HEARS RACHMANINOFF

GREAT RUSSIAN PIANIST GIVES
CLOSING CONCERT IN WOM-
AN'S CLUB SERIES.

A most marvelous piano recital by
Sergei Rachmaninoff, Russian com-
poser, conductor and pianist, formed
the closing number in the concert se-
ries under the auspices of the Wom-
an's Club of Fall River at the Empire
theater, Sunday afternoon. A capacity
audience was present, every seat in
the auditorium being taken, and many
stood throughout the performance.
The following program was given:

Improvisations	.....	N. Medtner
Rondo Brilliant	.....	Weber
Nocturne, Valse, Sonata, Etude mi- nor, Grave—Doppio movimento, Scherzo—Marcia funebre, Finale	.....	Chopin
Prelude, C-sharp minor, Serenade	.....	Rachmaninoff
La Jongleuse	.....	Moscowski
Sonetto del Petrarca	.....	Liszt
The Beautiful Blue Danube	.....	Strauss-Schubert-Eyler

Fall River was most fortunate in
having the opportunity of hearing a
master pianist, and it was gratifying
to note that the privilege was appre-
ciated, as was shown by the large at-
tendance, and intelligent and en-
thusiastic applause. Rachmaninoff
has long been known as a composer
and his works are becoming more
and more popular in this country. As
a performer he is considered by many
critics the greatest pianist in the
world today. He is a giant musically
and seems to tower over other pian-
ists. His ability as a composer seems
to color his playing and give him an
added power of interpretation. Mod-
est and unassuming in manner, nev-
ertheless one at once feels the force of
his personality as soon as he is seated
at the piano. His musical genius
is inherited, as his grandfather was
a pianist of note, his father was a
composer, and he is a cousin of Silioti,
the famous Russian pianist who toured
this country a few years ago.

It is impossible to describe his play-
ing; one must hear it to appreciate it.
There is sometimes a touch of velvety
softness, then the most powerful tones
which the instrument can produce,
and all the nuances in between. One
does not think of technique in connec-
tion with Rachmaninoff's playing; it
is taken as a matter of course, though
his prodigious feats of finger dexterity
are most amazing. But it is all a
means to an end, to bring out the
composer's thought to the last detail.

He is one of the greatest living in-
terpreters of Chopin, and his playing
of the Polish composer's works will
always be remembered, especially the
Sonata, which has not been played
here in some time. The funeral march
was almost overpowering, and left the
audience tense with emotion. After
the Chopin group, he played an en-
core, Chopin's Waltz in D-flat major.

Great interest centered in his play-
ing of his own compositions, two of
which were included in the program.
One was the famous Prelude in
C-sharp minor, which was probably
the first of his compositions to become
well known in this country. Many
pianists play it, but no one plays it
like Rachmaninoff. Many interpreta-
tions have been given to the great
three-note phrase, which begins it, but
it is supposed that he was inspired to
write it by the sound of the bells of
Moscow. The Serenade was in waltz
rhythm, with strange, moody har-
mony, and was a delicate and musical
composition. The arrangement of the
Beautiful Blue Danube Waltz was a
stupendous composition and called
forth the greatest technical ability
and endurance. It was magnificently
played and a. Its conclusions an en-
core was given. A famous critic has
written of Rachmaninoff: "The great
power of his interpretation is shown
by the fact that when you have heard
him, even if only once, you can never
forget him. He has left the mark of
his artistic personality upon you for
life." Few who listened to the won-
derful playing yesterday afternoon
realized that Rachmaninoff was real-
ly ill, and appeared against his physi-
cians' orders. Rather than disappoint
his audience he played at great per-
sonal inconvenience.

The Women's Club concert series
has closed its fourth season most suc-
cessfully, and all the entertainments
have been of the highest order and
most enjoyable. Mrs. Charles H. Dur-
fee was chairman of the committee
and was assisted by Mrs. R. W. Rey-
nolds, Miss Alice Brayton, Mrs.
Charles H. Warner and Mrs. Spencer
Borden, Jr.