

RACHMANINOFF THRILLS AUDIENCE

**Noted Russian Composer
and Pianist Gives Won-
derful Concert at the
Empire Under Auspices
of the Woman's Club of
Fall River.**

Sergei Rachmaninoff, a master of piano, presented at the Empire theatre yesterday afternoon one of the finest of the season's musical programs before a capacity audience. There was but one discordant note in the entire affair and that, the usual tardy arrivals. At 8:25 some of the "music lovers" strolled down the aisles. Might they not profit by that old French adage "Functuality is the politeness of kings."

One might say that Rachmaninoff appeared on the stage like a shadow as quietly and gravely did he enter and slipping over to the piano played the following program:

- Improvisations N. Medtner
- Rondo Brilliant Weber
- (a) Nocturne
- (b) Valse
- (c) Sonata, B-flat minor
- Grave—Doppio movimento
- Scherzo—Marta funebre
- Fugal
- Chopin
- (a) Prelude, C-sharp minor
- (b) Serenade

- La Jongleuse Moszkowski
- Sonetto del Petrarca Liszt
- The Beautiful Blue Danube
- Strauss-Schultz-Evler
- Steinway Piano Used
- Management, C. J. Foley

There is little that an amateur reviewer can say about Rachmaninoff's playing. His ease of execution, his fine shading, and exquisite tones hold one spellbound. Sonata in B flat minor was perhaps one of his finest numbers as it afforded ample opportunity for a display of his splendid nuance, and technical. Two of his own compositions were played by the artist, The Prelude in C sharp minor which he offered has gained great favor throughout this country. It was through this that he first became famous in America. It has been said that it represents the march of Russian prisoners on their way to Siberia but the composer has never given an interpretation to this composition, rather he has left it to each one's imagination. It is heavy, somber and mystical, quite a contrast to that delightful and fantastic "La Jongleuse" by Moszkowski which followed it and which was so splendidly interpreted by Rachmaninoff.

Of the closing number on the program, the Strauss-Schultz-Evler arrangement of "The Beautiful Blue Danube" it must be said that had it been the only number played it would have been well worth the afternoon. All the romance that dwells in its magic notes was conveyed to the ears of the audience by its masterful handling by the gifted master.

The program was neither too long nor too heavy and the two encores which Rachmaninoff so charmingly gave were delightful numbers. Chopin's Waltz in B Flat Major, the first, was especially well given.

The Fall River Woman's Club who were instrumental in having Rachmaninoff come to Fall River deserve the greatest praise for the choice of artists which they have brought to this city this year and this, their last offering of the season, was a fitting close to a wonderful musical season.

The concert was all the more wonderful by reason, of the fact that Rachmaninoff was ill and had been advised by his physicians to refrain from keeping his engagement. On Saturday afternoon in Carnegie Hall in New York the artist, despite the fact that he was ill, played his entire program rather than disappoint the enthusiastic audience which had crowded the house to the doors. This is a demonstration of the splendid courage of the fine master.