

PIANIST DELIGHTS LARGE AUDIENCE

Rachmaninoff Greeted By Great Throng Despite Rainy Evening

Sergei Rachmaninoff, Russian pianist, played to a large Birmingham audience Tuesday evening in the Masonic temple auditorium under the auspices of the Mrs. Richard F. Johnson and Mrs. Orline A. Shipman management.

Mr. Rachmaninoff's program was brief, well proportioned and unusually effective. With a few minor changes, such as being a bit shortened, it followed closely the program of his previous tour. As a composer he offered his Serenade instead of the familiar Prelude.

The Prelude he recited as an encore—intended as a final encore—but Birmingham clung to him with all the tenacity of its grateful heart, and the concluding encore was Chopin's Minute Waltz.

The Masonic temple audience, an unusually large one, received with discriminate enthusiasm every number which the pianist offered, seeming to especially enjoy the things most dear to Rachmaninoff. When the chords of his Prelude were struck his listeners vented their enthusiasm with a sincere and universal applause.

The pianist, if a whit different from his last tour, played a bit more kindly and with a nuance more felling and mellowness. The power was still there in all its beauty.

His audience seemed transported with Mendelsshon's Variations Series, and applauded especially the Chopin Nocturne, the pianist's serenade, the Bizet-Rachmaninoff Minuet and the fantastic Hopak of Mousorgsky-Rachmaninoff.