OVATION GIVEN RACHMANINOFF

Audience, Standing, Demands Encores From Noted Pianist

PAYS CITY TRIBUTE FOR APPRECIATION

An ovation was given Rachmaninoff at the close of his recital in the Playhouse last night, the audience standing and applauding until he not only appeared but bowed and played an encore.

The ovation came as a climax to a recital which literally thrilled an audience which compelled the management of the theatre to place extra chairs in the balcony to accommodate it. It was enthusiastic and sincere.

The Russian pianist already had given a program well calculated by its magnitude to satisfy. Its concluding numbers were a serenade, of his own composing, also his own arrangement of the Minuet from Bizet's l'Arlesienne Suite, the "Hopak Dance," by Moussorgsky, and Liszt's Rhapsody Hongroise, No. 4, commonly known as the "Spanish Rhapsody."

It was the brilliance of this final group which called forth the storm of applause.

Earlier in the evening, Mr. Rachmaninoff had played Chopin's Sonata in B Flat Minor, with its world-famous funeral march, and a series of variations on a Theme by Tschaikowsky. He received an encore and gave the Chopin valses in D Flat and A Flat, playing both with a fire, spirit and tempo that was little short of amazing.

The second and concluding portion o fhis program was devoted, as said, with the exception of the Bizet and Liszt numbers, to the modern Russian school It was here Rachmaninoff displayed not only his mastery of his chosen instrument, but his genius as an interpreter. The response was electric, calling the greater part of the audience to its feet in applause.

Mr. Rachmaninoff excelled in his staccato passages, particularly in the Tschaikowsky Variations. The high tempo and coloring he gave to the Chopin valses also were marvelous to the piano student.

"I have been told Wilmington audiences were cold," he remarked after the concert, "but I found tonight that Wilmington is most appreciative. I could not have asked nor received a finer reception than I did tonight."