

# Rachmaninoff Refuses To Play His 'Prelude'

*By Lillian Tyler Plogstedt*

**O**F Rachmaninoff, the master pianist, what can be said that has not already been said, again and again? This great artist played his annual recital in Emery Auditorium Tuesday night before a large and most enthusiastic audience. This enthusiasm, which kept them wildly applauding after the program and several encores had been given, was not rewarded with what they evidently expected and desired—the C sharp minor Prelude.

Rachmaninoff bowed again and again, but firmly shaking his head let it be known that there should be no "Prelude."

He did not play as interesting a program as usual, but his art is so

perfect that anything he plays is glorified and beautiful.

The English Suite, No. 2, of Bach was the opening number. Then the Mendelssohn Variation Serieuses, the lovely E major Nocturne and the C sharp minor Scherzo of Chopin in which all the poetry and romance of the artist were revealed; then the seldom played Funerailles of Liszt, a work of tremendous import, two Etudes Tableaux of his own, a stunning Russian dance, "Hopak," of Moussorgsky's, and then the "Rhapsodie Espagnole" of Liszt, a tremendous piece of virtuoso playing, but which, so great is his art, Rachmaninoff plays as if it were the smallest etude. He played several encores, among which the A flat Chopin Waltz, opus 64 and the D flat Waltz were ravishing.