

PIANIST THRILLS GREAT AUDIENCE

Rachmaninoff at Best in Recital at Poli's Theater Yesterday.

PROGRAM IS INTERESTING

Three Encores Demanded at Close of Concert Show Light Mood.

By JESSIE MacBRIDE.

To many persons Rachmaninoff is the most interesting pianist now before the public. Yet seldom has this great Russian composer and virtuoso presented so fascinating and so rarely beautiful a recital as that of yesterday afternoon at Poli's Theater, when the capacity of the large house was taxed even to standing room.

He took us through the taskmaster, Bach, making of him a vital, colorful study in theme delineation, bringing pearly tones to haunt one with fairy music that might vie with Mendelssohn in his "Midsummer Night's Dream," or making a churchy scene in the rich chords of his Sarabande in the English Suite, No. 2.

Rachmaninoff of Chopin mood was quickly followed by the Russian in Tschalkowsky, the beginnings of Russian nationalism in music in rare variations, followed by the pianist as composer, and closing with that master of pianism, Liszt.

SHOWS VARIED MOODS.

One needs to follow the mystery of interpretation in his varied moods. Each phrase is weighted with meaning, carried on wings of technique of entrancing variety through which rich harmonies come like colors in a stained-glass window.

The drama of his Chopin Fantasy was filled with meditation, not always dulcet, for he dares to be strident for strength at times. There is a true Chopin quality of tone that was present in flights of liquid runs, in big staccatos. Here, too, was hymning or a pure ballad such as Benta gives out of the turmoil of the sea is the "Flying Dutchman."

Under the peace of the Nocturne was an appassionata, almost a memory, lingered over in the long pedaled hold at the close. It was akin to the romance in the Liszt "Liebestraume," with its iridescent cascades of runs told in the moonlight tones of the piano.

PRELUDE IS WELCOME.

The huge audience interrupted the player when he began his own big C sharp minor "Prelude," applauding a welcome to it. He gave a new impression in the soft opening chords slowly retarded; the second part came like crystal clear sleighbells sung out over the snow. His own "Serenade" swayed us into the rhythm of the waltz in plucked chords, repetitions with that fatality of the Russe, eerie in tone and as beautiful as Chopin, and as rich as the chord modulations in his Chopin

CONCERT

Today at 8:15 p. m. at the U. S. Marine Institute Hall, Eighth and I streets southeast by the United States Navy Band Orchestra. Charles Bentler, director.
March, "Washington".....Fitzsimon
Overture, "William Tell".....Rossini
American Sketch, "Down South".....Myddleton
Grand Selection from the Opera, "Roméo et Juliette".....Gounod
Two Original Dances.....Ortiz
No. 1—"Arabian Dance."
No. 2—"Chinese Dance."
Ballet Suite, "Ballet Russe".....Ligisti
(a) Overture.
(b) Valse Lente.
(c) Scene.
(d) Masurka.
(e) Marche Russe.
Selection from the Popular Musical Comedy, "Blossom Time".....Rathberg
Valse de Concert, "Wedding of the Winds".....Hall
March, "High School Cadets".....Sonne
Finale, "Star-Spangled Banner."

Annual Banquet Is Postponed as Wilson Tribute

OUT of deference to the memory of Woodrow Wilson, who was an honorary member of the organization, the Southern Society of Washington has decided through its executive committee to postpone until after the period of official mourning its annual banquet which was to have been held tomorrow evening.

For more than a decade Washington's Birthday has been celebrated by the Southern Society with a banquet, which has become increasingly an event of importance socially and patriotically, and arrangements for the dinner this year were made prior to Mr. Wilson's death. A new date will be selected and announced as soon as the speakers have been consulted.

The program as originally arranged included an address by The Ambassador of Cuba, Dr. Cosme de la Torriente, and speeches by Gutson Borglum, Miss Maud Younger and Dr. C. Alfonso Smith, with Henry E. Davis as toastmaster. Charles A. Douglas is president of the society and Charles P. Light chairman of the banquet committee.

Scherzo with its mastery of octaves of soft staccatos.

There was, too, something new in the warm, strong virtuosity of the Liszt "Rhapsodie Espagnole." Such profundities are music's richest experiences. Yet in four encores, three demanded at the close of the recital, entrancing lightness of mood left his hearers buoyant, with the Chopin A Flat Waltz, the Chopin A Flat Masurka, a delicate "Etude" of Dohnanyi and "Humoresque" of Tschalkowsky.

One might say of Rachmaninoff that never a tone is left unsung in the maze of his richly painted portraits in tone. The recital was presented by Mrs. Wilson-Greene.

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