

RUSSIAN PIANIST AGAIN GIVES JOY

Rachmaninoff a Flawless Master of Technique; Deeply Moves Hearers.

BY CHARLOTTE M. TARSNEY.

Serge Rachmaninoff's annual piano recital always is an outstanding event of the music season. Thursday evening the distinguished Russian played in Orchestra hall and his usual audience, each member a keen admirer of the characteristic style of the artist, welcomed his return and showered the usual applause upon his performance. For pure, unalloyed joy in music for the piano there are few who can convey its message so completely as this grave, aloof appearing Russian.

Rachmaninoff is truly of the virtuoso rank. Flawless master of technique and directed by sensitive feeling and keen intelligence he plumbs the very depths of a composer's work and, with clear, incisive style, mirrors it to his audience. His tone is of extraordinary beauty. He makes use of rhetorical pauses; emphasizes the melodic line according to his particular fancy, but always to produce some emphatic effect. There is a virility and fire to his performance that his impassive appearance on the platform quite belies, and that he deeply moves his hearers is amply attested in the storm of applause which comes at the close of one of his numbers. His interpretations

may differ radically from other virtuosos, but it is this very difference which gives him such an enthusiastic following.

His program was conventional, comprising the Bach-Liszt Prelude and Fugue in A minor; the Bach Prelude in D minor from the "Well Tempered Clavichord"; Liszt's Sonata in B minor; a group of Chopin; a group of his own compositions; the Strauss-Godowsky waltz, "Kunstlerleben," and the usual long list of encores. In this reviewer's memory no pianist ever has made the Liszt Sonata so exquisite a work as did Rachmaninoff on this occasion. He reflected completely and lucidly the mood of the composition. Gradations of tone were exactly measured for the effects desired. He phrased and moulded the number so that its broad lines and loveliest filaments were clearly portrayed. His Chopin has surprising vitality without losing poetic character and his own compositions, a Prelude in G major, Etude Tableau in D major and Prelude, G flat major all reflected the emotional depth of the eminent artist.

Two School Girls Drowned in Lake

Republic, Mich., Nov. 20.—Believed to have been playing on "rubber" ice on Lake Michigan, Ellen Suomi, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Suomi, and Elsie Maki, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Maki, both residents of Republic, were drowned this afternoon when they broke through the thin sheet. The girls were about 7 years of age. They were returning from school when the accident occurred.