

# RACHMANINOFF GIVES RECITAL AT THE LYCEUM

The dynamic Rachmaninoff, the Sergei of the Steppes, the distinguished Russian pianist-composer, appeared in recital at the Lyceum theatre last night. He was in New York on Sunday afternoon, at Carnegie hall, where the fire laws were invoked and where the disappointed thronged the outer lobby with ears straining for a few golden notes from the great artist's instrument.

It cannot be said that New London's appreciation of the world-renowned artist is to its credit. There should have been a packed house to hear this incomparable artist, ranked among musicians today as the successor of Paderewski and the peer of Hofmann. He is a player with high artistic ideals and invariably impresses his hearers with the soundness of his musicianship, his excellent taste, sincerity of purpose and finely developed technique. But enough.

His conception of the Liszt B minor sonata was admirable in its just valuation of befitting classic dignity of style. It was a brilliant performance, perhaps the out-

standing effort of the evening. Many pleasing effects were achieved in the Chopin group, in which clarity of finger work was in evidence. It was in the more vigorous and passionate movements of the Polish master's works that he excelled, however, there being less of his customary spontaneity of style in the delicate, ethereal portions. One of Mr. Rachmaninoff's notable numbers was the scherzo in E major, a favorite of de Pachmann, interpreted in a manner to excite the admiration. The program concluded with Strauss' Artist's Life waltz (Kunstlerleben) Godowsky's pyrotechnic paraphrase of this brilliant tonal bubble and in response to demonstrative applause he played one of his own eloquent preludes.

No pianist in the world today wields greater authority than Rachmaninoff, but if Anton Rubinstein, that other eminent Russian pianist, came back to life, it is doubtful if New London's lovers of jazz and musical comedy would recognize his greatness. Valentino and Fairbanks command more respect nowadays.

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