

RACHMANINOFF'S PIANO CONCERT IS REAL DELIGHT

By RUTH M. AUGER.

Sergei Rachmaninoff played for El Paso music lovers last night in Liberty hall in the third event of the Philharmonic course.

He played magnificently, sublimely, and his audience responded with such appreciation that he played three encore numbers at the completion of the program.

His own wonderful prelude in C sharp minor was excellent; a performance, very rich in tone, color and grandeur of spirit.

His interpretation of the Chopin selections in the Chopin group and in his encores were gems of artistry, played with a delicacy of shading, a brilliancy of execution, an exquisite sensitiveness to the beauty of each selection. Chopin's Mazurka with its transitions of tempo was a masterpiece of performance.

Selections Well Chosen.

The selections constituting the program were so very well chosen in expressing such a variety of music moods and the flexibility of viewpoint of the pianist to interpret his impression of each composer's work.

The Schumann sonata in G minor, a big number, was played with great power and brilliance, and the Strauss-D. Godowsky waltz "Kunstlerleben" — a very colorful spectacular performance that was great.

His own Etude Tableau was another of the notable numbers. In fact, as he played them, each selection on the program was so remarkable, so entrancing and so soul-satisfying in its own particular way, that the entire program was of one of beautiful perfection.

The last encore, "Hopack," by Moussorgsky, with the pianist's own arrangement was a fitting climax of all the feeling of the human soul expressed in musical terms.

Sincere and Unaffected.

A fascinating part of the performance was to watch the pianist's amazingly large, perfectly shaped and tremendously powerful hands as they dominated the piano's register.

The personality of the artist is most interesting. He is so genuine, sincere and unaffected, with a natural dignity that is kept from being any trace of aloofness by the kindness of his thought and his smile. He is absolute simplicity itself, which is another way of saying he is one of the truly great.