

## RACHMANINOFF DELIGHTS CROWD

By "K"

The attentive listener at a Rachmaninoff recital is at once aware that he is in the presence of a master pianist. And soon also he realizes delightedly that this tall, stooped, almost bashful Russian, who looks like an academician, is a true musician, with a warrant straight from the divine altar—a lover and a worshiper of the muse with ardency chance inspection would scarcely indicate.

In the L. E. Behymer concert course last night in Philharmonic auditorium, Rachmaninoff played a well diversified and interesting program of Bach, Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Liszt numbers, in addition to several of his own compositions. The audience was enraptured.

### Unending Appeal

Although the composer-pianist was reasonably generous with his encores the audience refused to depart. Even after the extinction of the stage lights and the dimming of the lights in the auditorium a larger proportion of the patrons than I have observed in like case at any concert of the season, lingered on in a vain appeal for more.

Rachmaninoff is one of the best known composers of our day. Perhaps no living man has written more successfully for the piano. Fine musicianship is awaited from such a man, and Rachmaninoff will disappoint no expectation, no matter how extravagant. He plays with perfect taste and refinement, with complete understanding of the inner structure and meaning of the music, and with a feeling and a poesy which belie his prosaic appearance. Fires must be pent up within him. Perhaps one wishes at times that he would unbend more, and relax more, to see what Titanic powers are actually concealed there.

### Bach Best

I liked Bach best of all the program—all a matter of taste of course—but Rachmaninoff has an especial responsiveness to clear pure music such as Bach and Mozart produced. The so-called Sonata Appassionata of Beethoven was invested with its full meaning and grandeur, and wrenched at the heart. In the two Liszt numbers the Russian displayed flawless technique and remarkable strength. His own selections were well chosen and given in a life-size manner.

It is foolish to seek to criticize a man such as Rachmaninoff—in the first rank of the masters, or to compare him with others. Suffice it to say that he is one of the immortals; that the piano lover will do well never to miss him, and that in addition to delighting his hearers he advances the cause of true music wherever he treads.