

HEARERS MARVEL AT RACHMANINOFF

An audience that filled Hoyt Sherman auditorium to the last row of the balcony last night heard Sergei Rachmaninoff play his own prelude.

It was his first Des Moines appearance.

His hearers marveled at his playing of the works of other composers but it was in the playing of his own compositions that he thrilled them.

With Rachmaninoff music appears an intellectual rather than an emotional enjoyment.

Never by the slightest change of facial expression does he follow the theme of the number he plays.

The result is that attention is concentrated where it justly belongs—on his playing. Here is commendable artistic economy and wisdom.

His playing of a Chopin group, a Scherzo, and etude and a ballade shared with the his own compositions, the honors of the evening. He opened his program with Beethoven's Variations in C minor and concluded it with the Strauss-Godowsky "Artist's Life" waltzes. Rachmaninoff last night displayed his ability to overcome mechanical obstacles but it was through gaining marvelous effects that his playing achieves its greatest distinction. An audience that would not let him go applauded every number and Rachmaninoff responded with frequent encores.