

RACHMANINOFF IN SPLENDID RECITAL

Sergei Rachmaninoff was the towering figure who glorified the musical season in Buffalo with his appearance in Elmwood Music hall last evening in a recital which offered uplifting moments not to be forgotten. This famous Russian pianist was in splendid form.

Von Bulow called Bach, Beethoven and Brahms, the "Three Bs," and of this trio Rachmaninoff chose for his opening number a composition by Bach entitled Partita No. 4 in D major, in which his majestic tone, sustained vibration and unlimited technical resources were brought into play, presenting the severely classic form and outline of the most famous of all stylists, in its highest form of expression.

Of exquisitely fine texture was his playing of the Schubert Impromptu, but it was in the Chopin Sonata in B minor that his formidable pianistic equipment shone resplendent. This is a work that as a rule is interesting only in parts, but Rachmaninoff's beautiful reading made it the outstanding feature of the evening. Only a master could have accomplished this miracle.

Three numbers by Liszt were dazzling exhibitions of his virtuosity, "Dance of the Gnomes," being a tonal picture of endless variety in color and shading, and the Heroica, a pure exhibition of pianistic prowess.

A modern number, Fairy Tale in E minor by Mediner was a graceful offering, and his final group which included a Prelude and Etude Tableaux, two of his own compositions glowing with fire and the dramatic Russian feeling for bizarre effects, were other favorites. Recalled for double encores, he played for the first one, Troika by Tchaikowsky, of which he gave such an unusual interpretation that it proved a great surprise. It was a performance that was full of romance and was taken at a much more deliberate tempo than is usual. He considered its poetic beauties, and all of the younger pianists present sat up and took notice of the reading this musician of authority gave it. His second encore, Turkish March from "Ruins of Athens," by Beethoven, was another surprise and marked with compelling individuality in interpretation. He was again recalled with loud acclaim. Rachmaninoff appeared under the local management of Michael-Kraft.