

THOUSANDS THRILLED BY RACHMANINOFF

World-Famed Pianist Scores Another Triumph at Massey Hall

Sergel Rachmaninoff, world-famed Russian pianist, thrilled thousands when he played in Massey Hall last night for the first time this season. On previous visits the great artist had captured the hearts of many musicians, and whether the love of melody or the lure of a famous name had brought his hearers there, Mr. Rachmaninoff knew that ere the night was over the success of his concert would be assured. Tall, grave, dignified, restrained, there was nothing in the personality of the performer to indicate the power and magic of his art, and as he entered the hall he appeared rather a learned university professor than a renowned pianist.

The program opened with the National Anthem, played as never man played, and then Mr. Rachmaninoff launched on a program that steadily grew in appeal and finally swept the audience into a paroxysm of enthusiasm. From the top gallery the artist must have received his greatest inspiration, for it was packed with young people—eager and adoring. At the close of the evening two youths who had noticeably registered by every look and gesture the intensity of their enjoyment were giving expression once again to their appreciation. The grave Rachmaninoff, bowing sedately and smiling a wan smile, caught sight of them. Did he know them, or was it that the hero recognized his worshippers and heart spoke heart to heart? Whichever it was, his smile deepened perceptibly, a glow of happiness swept over his face, and to this little audience of two he bowed again.

At the conclusion of the concert the audience stormed their applause, and an encore was the result. Again it called, and called, and once more the musician responded with a magnificent rendering of "Ruins of Athens." Then the people rose in a body and round after round of applause swept through the hall. Behind the scenes dozens of young men and women waited with fountain-pens and cards for the famous signature, and as Mr. Rachmaninoff proceeded to the waiting-room he was surrounded by these admirers. He talked with them for several minutes, while the people in the hall, still standing, clapped persistently. There was no ignoring that plea, and he returned to play one more of his own compositions.

From Bach, Schubert, Chopin and Liszt, Mr. Rachmaninoff chose the major part of his program, and added an exquisite arrangement of his own of Kreisler's "Liebesfreud." "The Brooklet" and "Impromptu," from Schubert, were also transcribed for the piano by him, and again he was heard in his own compositions in "Prelude" and "Etude Tableau."