

LAND PRESS

## LARGE AUDIENCE FEELS GENIUS OF RACHMANINOFF

### Crashing Chords Under Steel-shod Fingers Alternate With Lyric Tones

By WILSON G. SMITH

It gives me pleasure to announce—following the method employed by the toastmaster at a banquet—that the band of art esoterics is increasing in numbers, practical evidence of the fact being demonstrated by the large audience assembled in Masonic Hall Wednesday night to hear Rachmaninoff evoke alluring and soul-stirring tones from the piano.

The fact of the matter is that I am at a loss what to write concerning his superb and convincing artistry, since my stock of superlatives has already been exhausted in former peans in his praise.

#### Fitting Revelation

The versatility of him in tone modulation and emotional and dynamic expression is only found in a creative musician. His playing is always marked by introspection and subjectivity.

It is the thought of the composer he interprets, that controls his tone and touch. The virility and nobility of utterance of Beethoven and Brahms finds in his exposition a fitting revelation.

Chopin receives a subtle refinement and sentiment in treatment that reveals the evanescent charm of the Polish genius. Rachmaninoff employs sudden dynamic contrasts with marvelous effect; this was amply demonstrated in the Sonata of Beethoven, the Ballad of Brahms, and the Wanderer Fantasia of Schubert.

#### Supreme Brilliancy

The tonal climaxes he attained in the last mentioned were of tremendous power and sonority. Concerning his certainty and clarity of technic it seems superfluous to speak, for it had the brilliancy of the 9th degree of virtuosity.

It could assume torrential impetuosity upon occasion, and the fleeting similitude of a breeze in summer. Crashing chords under steel-shod fingers alternated with lyric tones of seductive charm.

#### Outstanding Gift

And so I might continue the mention of his pianistic accomplishments until it became but vain repetition. It all reverts to what appeals to me as his outstanding gifts as a pianist, viz., his playing at all times evidences the creative musician; one who subjects his interpretation to a psychological analysis of the composer's intent by the upbuilding of the structural content and its emotional significance.

His climaxes are not caused by emotional reaction, or with any desire for personal exploitation. They are indigenous to the composition under consideration, and hence become a psychological necessity.

#### Spirit of Composer

So, when all is considered, Rachmaninoff cannot be classed as a virtuoso, but rather he is a distinguished composer who plays the piano with the spirit of a creative musician dominating him.

Some pieces of modern trend by the Russian composer, Medtner, and a Prelude by himself, proved highly interesting. A Rondo of Chopin, rarely heard, received at his hands a brilliant and wondrously effective exposition, pregnant with melodic charm, and brilliant thru its pianistic development.

Rachmaninoff's virtuosity reached its culminating climax in Liszt's Rakoczy March. The audience manifested its appreciation by enthusiastic applause after every number of the program.

Rickets is found most frequently in babies between 6 and 24 months of age.

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