

Beauty Was Keynote of Rachmaninoff's Concert

By Walter D. Hickman

The greatest possible beauty in music seemed to be what Sergei Rachmaninoff was searching for yesterday afternoon at the Murat.

His mission was to find that musical beauty both in its quiet and tantalizing moods as well in its vigorous phases.

Beauty of melody—That's my cherished recollection of this pianist's concert yesterday afternoon. And in actually finding such great beauty, his technique reflected that spirit of artistry which brought even new beauty to old and new compositions.

It was not a noisy and fireworks piano that Rachmaninoff gave his largest Indianapolis audience, but it was quiet and beautifully melodious music that he gave us.

Of course one felt the stirring beat of Liszt's "Rahoczy March" and the definite touch in Chopin's "Rondo, Opus 16."

But it was the quiet beauty of Schubert-Liszt Fantaisie "Wanderer," of Brahms "Intermezzo, Opus 118," and his "Ballade" and the tantalizing beauty of Medtner's two "Fairy Tales," and his own delightful "Prelude" which made this Rachmaninoff program my greatest and most satisfying experiment in finding musical beauty.

It was this definite message and spirit of great beauty which the artists gave to everyone in the theater that caused him to be tendered the biggest ovation in the history of his experience in this city.

It was this understanding of his

mission yesterday which caused him to play his famous "Prelude In C Sharp Minor," as one of his many encore numbers.

And this great man played encore after encore and it was necessary to turn off the stage lights before the audience would leave the theater.

During his program proper, Rachmaninoff used a method new to him in presenting his recital. He played the first two programmed numbers and then left the stage to return to play the remainder of his long program at one sitting. After his program proper he went into his many encores.

Ona B. Talbot again by presenting Rachmaninoff has given this city and State one of its most satisfying experiences in musical beauty.