

Rachmaninoff Master Pianist

BY LOUISE RAYMOND OWENS

The appearance of Sergei Rachmaninoff, one of the greatest creative composers and pianists of the present age, is always of the greatest interest to local music devotees. On previous occasions he has been proclaimed by enthusiastic throngs, but the large audience which greeted him last night when he was heard in concert at the Metropolitan theater, heard playing that surpassed all expectations.

As a composer he has won international fame, his compositions being included in the repertoire of every orchestra as well as on the programs of concert pianists. While his works have won him renown he has achieved untold success for his pianistic art, until today he is the leader of them all. To hear him is to hear perfection in musical art.

Rachmaninoff has a magnetic personality, and from the moment he appears on the stage his listeners are impressed with his solemn dignity. He has a somber, unassuming manner, and plays in an easy, unaffected way, that lacks any mannerisms that so often detract. In his playing he combines superb musicianship with a genuine technique and tone coloring, and his masterly interpretations portray clearly the artist's intent. He is a pianist who has conquered every technical intricacy—one who is at all time master of himself and his instrument.

His interpretation of Beethoven's Sonata Opus 24 was indeed a revelation of pianistic art, and was greeted with the most flattering applause. Liszt's "Funeralles," a superb composition, was given a profound reading as was "Etude Symphonique" by Schumann. Words are inadequate to express the playing of this great master, for no matter what he may choose to interpret, each number takes on new color under his fingers.

Two delightful Etudes by Mendelssohn, "Fairy Tale" by Medtner, "Valse" by Strauss-Tausig and, last, his own compositions, "Two Etudes Tableau" and "Prelude" closed the program.

Since it is thru his compositions for piano that Rachmaninoff has reached such a high place in the musical world, audiences are always most eager to hear him play his own works, and last night's audience was no exception. For encores, which he most generously gave at the close of a long and difficult program, he played "Opaque," one of his own; C Sharp Minor Waltz by Chopin, and for the last his well-known "Prelude C Sharp Minor."

Rachmaninoff's local appearance was under the auspices of the Ladies' Musical club.

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