

RACHMANINOFF IN GREAT CONCERT

Russian Composer Gives City Rare Treat—Generous with New Encores.

Sergei Rachmaninoff, the Russian composer and pianist, gave Bridgeport music lovers a magnificent concert under the auspices of the M. Steinert & Sons in the Park theatre last evening. There was a varied program, opening with the Mendelssohn Stereuses, opus 54, with variations. In the opening number and through the entire program the musical giant was sincerely introspective, self-restricted so that not for a moment was technical brilliancy allowed to overshadow the musical beauty of the composition. At times in the reading there was poesy, fleeting delicacy, and yet withall unfathomable depths.

The Carnival, opus 9, by Schumann, was indeed a *maître à tout faire* in its wealth of coloring, it was kaleidoscopic in new picture motifs introduced at such brief intervals with only the briefest pause to show the change of Schumann's fanciful mood.

The Chopin etudes and the Scherzo, opus 31, found the artist sincerely interpreting the master. The Scherzo was read at such a pace that it became airy in effect, at one with the elements.

Rachmaninoff's own familiar prelude in C sharp minor was welcomed and the very popular valse was given a remarkable reading which was very far removed from the dance time from which it takes its name. It was churchly with the bell like clarity of the cathedral chimes.

After the Valse, "Faust," with the Gounod-Liszt arrangement, Rachmaninoff responded to three generous encores. His own Baccarole was a composition of rare beauty. Paderewski's Minuet was a great interpretation, one master gave in appreciation of the other, and Tschalkowsky's Tróica was the soulful Russian number with which the dramatic program was concluded.