

PIANIST'S ARTISTRY WINS HIM TRIUMPH

*Rachmaninoff is Recalled
Many Times to Repeat His
Rhapsody Rendition.*

BY CHARLOTTE M. TARSNEY.

For the second time, Serge Rachmaninoff, the distinguished Russian pianist, played in Orchestra hall, Monday evening, and, as last season, when his recital stood out as one of the real noteworthy events, so his performance on this occasion will be remembered for its rare artistry and the authority and striking charm of this composer's own works and of his interpretation of the works of others.

A man of dignity, repose and seemingly unlimited power in the pianistic art, Rachmaninoff never seeks to exploit himself or his contributions to musical literature. His bearing is one of aloofness towards his audience and he gives the impression of being merely a means through which a composer would convey the underlying meaning of his work. Sincerity is the fundamental characteristic of all he does, and towering figure that he is in the musical field, he permits no hint of his own personality to obtrude itself in his performance. With keen analytical skill and scholarly insight and ease he reveals every beauty of a work, wonderfully proportioned, and delivers its message with eloquence of tone and such a command of nuances that his audience wherever he goes are made up in large measure of teachers and students who would learn proper values in dynamics from such a master.

Earnest as he is in all he does, there is nothing of the sensational in a Rachmaninoff program. The numbers offered last evening included the Beethoven Sonata, E Minor, Op. 90; Mendelssohn's "Five Songs Without Words," a Chopin group, Liszt's Rhapsodia Espagnole, Grieg's "On the Mountains" and two of his own compositions, "Polichinelle," Op. 3, and "Barcarolle," Op. 16.

The Beethoven work was not heard by this reviewer, but seldom has Mendelssohn been played here with more songfulness or sensitive beauty. Of the Chopin selections, a Valse especially caught the fancy of the audience, though all of this composer's numbers in their flowing melodic line and poetic feeling were prized by the numbers of students in the house. The Rachmaninoff "Polichinelle" is a delightful work played by the composer with sharp, incisive phrasing at the opening and close, while a rich melody interwoven stands out with glowing beauty. The Barcarolle was masterfully played. Following the Spanish Rhapsody the applause was so insistent that several encores had to be given before the audience would leave the hall.