

Review:

HUFVUDTADSBLADET 1911-02-28 (orig.: Swedish)

The eighth symphonic concert yesterday was unusually interesting, in a way that people could get acquainted with Sergei Rachmaninoff, both as a pianist and composer. In both cases, Rachmaninoff proved to be grandiose. As a pianist, he is of the great kind, with an imposing shaping ability, a characteristic way of playing, with every tone as a living voice. Content and external form go hand in hand and generate a wholeness, and yesterday all that had a powerful effect on the audience. After performing his brilliantly written concerto in C-minor, followed a roaring, cheering storm of bravos, that didn't stop until the great and illustrious artist, multiple times called up, played no less than three encores: Prelude in G-minor, a Barcarolle, as well as a not yet printed prelude in G-sharp Minor. The deep impression Rachmaninoff made, as well as the acquaintance with the compositions mentioned above, found yesterday a natural expression in the wish that he would, on occasion, wish to give an own concert here. Yesterday he played a magnificent Bechstein concert grand from Mr Schalin's piano shop. The ingeniously composed concerto was unusually difficult and demanding also for the accompaniment. So much greater the merits of prof. Kajanus and the orchestra that they, without long preparations (Rachmaninoff arrived only yesterday in our city), accompanied so meritoriously.

BIS

[Translation: (c) J. Falley]