

I had the opportunity to hear Rachmaninoff, and in the full scope of his wonderful creativity as a composer, pianist and conductor, on January 21 of this year at the third symphony concert, also dedicated to his works. It was undoubtedly the best concert of the season. The "Cliff" fantasy, the second symphony in E minor, and the second piano concerto in C minor made up its program. Rachmaninoff the pianist and Rachmaninoff the conductor were interesting and captivating; but for me, Rachmaninoff the composer is still more precious. After six months, of course, the attraction is already there. had time to smooth out somewhat, but in any case it was an impression of high beauty, which is beautiful in itself and alien to any polishing and exploitation to please the philistine tastes of our public. The appearance of Rachmaninoff, according to the proverb "it would be a blessing in disguise if misfortune helped", we owe to the incident with Oscar Fried. [...] Pel'

[Translation: Google]

Слышать Рахманинова, и при томъ въ полномъ объемѣ его прекраснаго творчества, какъ композитора, піаниста и дирижера, мнѣ довелось 21 января текущаго года на третьемъ симфоническомъ концертѣ, также посвящен-номъ его сочиненіямъ. Это былъ безспорно луч-шій концертъ сезона. Фантазія «Утесъ», вторая симфонія E-moll и второй концертъ C-moll для фортепіано составили его программу. Рахманиновъ - піанистъ и Рахманиновъ - дири-жеръ были интересны и увлекательны; но для меня все же дороже Рахманиновъ-компо-зиторъ. За полгода, конечно, впечатлѣніе уже. успѣло нѣсколько сгладиться, но во всякомъ случаѣ это было впечатлѣніе высокой красоты, которая прекрасна сама по себѣ и чужда вся-кихъ притираний и пользованій въ угожденіе филистерскимъ вкусамъ нашей публики. Появле-ніемъ Рахманинова, по пословицѣ «не бывать бы счастью, да несчастье помогло, мы обязаны инциденту съ Оскаромъ Фридомъ.