

Amusements

Sergei Rachmaninoff Recital.

It was more than a pleasure to hear Sergei Rachmaninoff in recital at Central High School auditorium yesterday afternoon, it was a privilege. This Russian genius stands forth as one of the few who have attained widespread fame while yet in their prime, and America is in-

deed fortunate to have him as a visitor. His compositions have long been endeared to music lovers through their renditions by lesser artists, but when he himself interprets them the result is perfection.

To say that he is a master of piano technique as well as of the art of harmonic expression would be to repeat what every one already knows. But he possesses that indefinable

"something else," the gift of translating his own moods into singing tones, and weaving them into music-poems which express beauty, pathos and tragedy as distinctly as if they were voiced with words in lieu of with harmony.

His program included selections from Liszt, Grieg, Chopin and Dohnany, but probably the audience, which filled the huge auditorium to capacity, appreciated most the interpretations of his own compositions. The first was an "Etude Tableaux," a short whimsical bit of musical expression, with a mysterious intriguing theme accompanied by tinkling trills and runs. The "Polka de W. R.," which followed, began in a gay staccato dance tempo, saddened at times by a secondary theme in minor key. For a brief space the slow, solemn tones predominated, and then there was a return to the happy mood for the finale.

As one of his encores, M. Rachmaninoff played the beautiful "C Sharp Minor Prelude," which is the best known of his musical works, and at the first resounding tones the audience accorded him an ovation of applause.

The Chopin "Nocturne" and "Scherzo" were outstanding numbers of the concert, but the Liszt "Ballade" and "Tarantelle," which opened and closed the program, were, next to the artist's own selections, the most interesting. The latter, seeking to combine impressions of two Italian cities, Venice and Naples, was complex in the extreme, and yet the fiery dance tempo, which described the sunny southern town, and the quiet rippling chords and singing guitar-like tones, which pictured Venetian lagoons, were readily distinguishable. The rapid chord repetitions and lightning cadenza at the finale gave a dramatic finish to a brilliant afternoon entertainment by a true piano virtuoso. E. D. E.

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