

RACHMANINOFF IS STAR OF ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Famous Russian Appears as
Composer and Pianist in
Programme at Academy

By LINTON MARTIN

Sergi Rachmaninoff was quite the lion of the occasion at the Philadelphia Orchestra concert in the Academy last night. It was in the dual role of composer and pianist that the world-famous Russian musician appeared, and was given quite an ovation by the capacity audience.

The concert was the last in the Monday evening series, and marked something of a departure from the usual custom, in that the programme was not a repetition of that presented at the immediately preceding concerts in the regular symphonic series. Consisting entirely of Russian music, as at the concerts a fortnight ago, the programme included Rachmaninoff's new Fourth Piano Concerto, which had its world premiere here on that occasion, with the composer himself to give distinction to the solo part at the piano. Rachmaninoff's settings of three Russian songs, "The Drake and the Duck," "Oh! My Johnny," and "Powder and Paint," also delighted the Monday nighters when repeated by a selected chorus of contraltos and basses from the Mendelssohn Club. The Tchaikovsky "Romeo and Juliet" overture-fantasy remained, however, the outstanding feature in sheer musical interest, and made a magnificent climax to this programme so interestingly arranged by Mr. Stokowski, but of which the last number was conducted last night by Arthur Rodzinski.

Increased acquaintance with Rachmaninoff's new piano concerto emphasizes its musicianly qualities, and its admirable opulence of orchestration, although it is decidedly uneven in interest and inspiration, the middle section, especially, verging upon the commonplace. The soloist played with intense preoccupation in the music, the piano part rivaling in character the heavy orchestration. The songs were admirably sung.