

# MUSIC

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## *Rachmaninoff at Town Hall.*

Sergei Rachmaninoff's recital at the Town Hall last night was the third in the endowment series. The program included Mozart's Sonata 14, an old French gavotte and a gavotte by Gluck arranged by Pauer; a ballade, a nocturne, a rondo and a scherzo by Chopin; two preludes by the pianist, Liszt's "Valse oubliée" and "Voices of the Wood" and the Strauss-Tausig valse-caprice, "One Lives but Once."

In a program that avoided the sombre and the heavy, Mr. Rachmaninoff's interpretation of the Mozart sonata was one of the happiest of the evening. Many pianists can convey the graces and delicate turns of a Mozart sonata, but there are only a few who can at the same time give an impression of the strength and vitality that are also in this music as Mr. Rachmaninoff did last night. The poetry and sweetness did not become cloying; the outlines were firm, but not rigid or bleak.

The two gavottes combined charm and a trace of Old World stiffness as Mr. Rachmaninoff read them. If there was a suggestion of weariness in the pianist's entrance and in his attitude at his instrument between compositions, it did not manifest itself in his playing of Chopin. There were gusto and concentration of conception and, of course, insight, even though the pianist was below his own standard in several places in these works.

The audience was very large and received Mr. Rachmaninoff with the usual enthusiasm. The fourth event in this endowment series on Feb. 24 will be the historical pageant, commemorating the bicentenary of George Washington's birth. H. T.