

## Piano Wizard Scores Again

### Artistry Exhibited By Rachmaninoff

BY HILMAR GRONDAHL  
Music Editor, The Oregonian

Sergei Rachmaninoff, who has loomed large in the musical thinking of Americans during the past 30 years, both as pianist and composer, played a characteristic keyboard recital to a spirited crowd Monday night at the public auditorium. It was a performance which unobtrusively reiterated his claim to a position of first importance among the virtuosi of the day.

It was a characteristic recital both in its list of material and the manner of its artistic delineation. Through this source and by this means, Mr. Rachmaninoff made it plain once more that he has an uncanny affinity for the minutest shade of meaning in the compositions of another, and an inimitable way of revealing his own. Were he to offer identical programs here year after year, the thrilling felicity of his individual readings would win one successively to his place in the hall.

#### Works Made to Live

In the best significance of the word Mr. Rachmaninoff re-creates the intellectual and spiritual essence of whatever notes he touches. His playing of the Liszt transcription of Bach's organ prelude and fugue in A minor, for example, had the most scrupulous regard for structural design.

In the sense that each note fell in its proper place as a contributory factor in a perfectly contrived scheme, his was a scholarly reading. But there is a dryness of inference in that term when applied to musical interpretation which does not take into account the warmth of utterance and the upretentiousness of attitude that were component parts of the artist's handling.

With each recurring visit one's wonderment quickens to the fact that time has so far made no inroads upon the pianist's technical equipment. Now, nearing 70, Mr. Rachmaninoff has the vitality and resiliency of touch and attack that many a player in his 30s must envy. Furthermore he has the maturity of viewpoint and mellowness of interpretative vocabulary that generally come only with the wise winnowing of broad artistic experience.

#### Audience Senses Beauty

In no part of his program did the shrewd application of these virtues show to such arresting advantage as in Beethoven's "Appassionata" sonata. Here Mr. Rachmaninoff imbued each line and phrase with a purpose and persuasive beauty that made one feel that one composer's mind speaking through another had succeeded in evoking the quintessence of creative intention. It was a superlative performance.

Chopin, Liszt and Rachmaninoff were represented on the second part of the program. These were received with enthusiasm.