

## Sergei Rachmaninoff, Russian Pianist-Composer, Displays Wonderful Mastery of Music

(By ELSIE FLOWER)

WHAT the audience lacked in numbers it made up in enthusiasm at last evening's concert given by Sergei Rachmaninoff, the Russian pianist-composer. It is a pity that a man of his standing in the world of music should not have had from Stockton the tribute of a much greater attendance.

He is technically a giant, a power made subservient to his wonderful sense of music. His fluency, the splendid colorful richness of his interpretation and the intense dramatic quality with which he invests his music, mark him as the individualist.

His program opened with Saint-Saens arrangement of Gluck's "Caprice," the air de ballet from the opera "Alceste." This he played with an exquisite delicacy, and in the concluding passage, with a splendid vigor and boldness.

The Schumann "Sonata, G Minor" was appreciated for the marvelous tonal beauty of its Andantino passage which Rachmaninoff endowed with a glowing poetic loveliness. The third Etude, which Chopin himself said was the finest melody he had ever written, Rachmaninoff played in a manner which will never be forgotten by his audience. The Chopin Ballade, (No. 111), colorful and rushing in movement, of particular appeal to the Russian temperament, was given a superbly free and sweeping interpretation.

In the group of his own compositions, Rachmaninoff substituted his "Serenade" for the "Etude Tableau" and gave also the "Prelude in G Sharp Minor." The splendid chord passages which conclude the prelude were remarkable for their power and tonal purity under his sure attack.

The Strauss waltz "Kunstlerleben," upon which Godowsky has allowed his musical imagination to

run magnificently wild, was given brilliantly.

To the insistent applause, Rachmaninoff returned bows, but at the conclusion of the "Kunstlerleben," he played "The Schubert Song," the Chopin valse, and his own arrangement of "The Hopak," the Russian dance.

Tonight Rachmaninoff plays in Fresno. Tomorrow in Oakland and Sunday in San Francisco, his first concert there in two years. He started the present tour November 10, playing in concert first at the University of Illinois. Rachmaninoff has made his home in the United States for five years. He resides on Riverside Drive, New York, and has two daughters, the elder a student at Columbia University and the younger in a private school.

He travels with three pianos, two of which are shipped on ahead of him in his itinerary. His staff numbers Benjamin Keith of San Luis Obispo, piano tuner, and Mr. Spalding, his manager.

The stage of the High School Auditorium, where the concert was held, was barren and unattractive. The background suggested cheap melodrama and rats running about. By reason of the temporary heating system, which bellows out the curtain in an annoying way, it has been difficult to give a proper setting for a concert, yet, if the "Red Mill" set, used in last year's high school opera, had been put up, it would have been far better than the set used.