

MUSIC

Cercle Musical Juif

Rachmaninoff

Even though it was not on the program, surely no one would have gone to the Rachmaninoff concert without the expectation that he would also play his world-famous "Prélude".

One had to wait until the very last moment for it. Rachmaninoff concluded the evening with it, and it was a source of wonder to everyone how much the tempo he adopts deviates from the generally known. He approaches the middle section with a speed that could almost be called impetuosity, and many pianists who heard him yesterday will undoubtedly have set to work this morning trying to add such momentum to their interpretation of this page as well. Rachmaninoff has not a single expectation disappointed. In his quiet performance, this fifty-seven-year-old man is above all a virtuoso. Is he concerned with deep sentiment and poetry, and does he feel less for the classics? It is always certain that names like Beethoven, Mozart, and Haydn were excluded from this program, and space was made especially for compositions that require a special virtuosity, by Schubert, Schumann, Chopin, Liszt, and Rachmaninoff himself.

Among the pieces that were most well received and in which the wondrous virtuosity of this artist shone most brightly are: Chopin's Scherzo in B-flat minor, the famous "Sospiro" and the grandly conceived waltz-impromptu by Liszt, and his own three short studies. As encores, he performed a very beautiful page by Mussorgsky and, finally, as the bouquet of a triumphant evening, his "Prelude," popular throughout the world.

E.M.

[Translation: Google]