



Music

AT THE WORKS OF ARTISTS

Recital Serge Vassiliévitch Rachmaninoff

A large crowd filled the Conservatory's Ballroom on Tuesday evening to hear the great piano virtuoso Rachmaninoff.

Rachmaninoff is very well known in Liège for his piano works: concertos, preludes, studies for the left hand, and also for some very pretty melodies. The composer is therefore highly appreciated here; it is the pianist we hear this evening. Let us say at once the impression we had of the personal interpretation of the works performed, so different from what one generally, indeed always, hears, that it left us quite astonished! The large audience did not react at first and remained rather cold. Mr. Rachmaninoff takes the slow movements—very slow—and the fast movements—very fast; it is of a sensitive, nervous nature, full of spontaneity.

Mozart's Variations and Beethoven's "Sonata Quasi una Fantasia" seemed to us to be interpreted with a certain flair because, in our culture, when playing Mozart or Beethoven, one must adhere to the classical style.

Mr. Rachmaninoff, an excellent composer, must know how to interpret the great classics, so... aren't we the ones making a mistake? In Chopin's Ballade, Mazurka, and Scherzo; Debussy's Suite: "Coin des enfants"; his two Preludes; Borodin's Scherzo; and three pieces by Liszt: "Sonetto del Petrarca," "Valse oubliée," and "Rhapsodie," Rachmaninoff displayed exceptional talent! What volubility of fingers! What lightness of wrists; what virtuosity! Mr. Rachmaninoff is truly a great, a very great pianist. Called back with enthusiasm, the maestro played several encores, including the "Prelude" which brought him great fame.

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[Translation: Google]