

AT THE REFORMATION

Rachmaninoff

Known in our country primarily for his Prelude in C-sharp, which enjoyed worldwide popularity, Mr. Serge Rachmaninoff is an artist with a brilliant career as a virtuoso. Certainly, he possesses all the attributes of the latter: a dazzling, yet clear, technique, and a touch that knows how to be delicate when necessary. His octave playing is remarkable, with absolute precision. He also demonstrates undeniable skill in handling sonorities. However, we must admit that his performances sometimes leave us in awe, as evidenced by Beethoven's Sonata Op. 10 in D major, which differs significantly from those we have heard until now and is distinguished by a continuous "rubato." An original interpretation, I'm willing to believe, but one that seems to us to suit Chopin's Sonata in B-flat better, for example, and much better still certain pages by Liszt, where his imagination can then be given free rein.

A delirious audience yesterday acclaimed Mr. Rachmaninoff, who still had some of his own compositions on his program. The recital began with an arrangement of J.S. Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor for organ. Our opinion on this has long been formed, and the best transcription played by the best pianist in the world will always make us long for the instrument mentioned by Guillaume de Machault:

And of all instruments, the king, I will say here as I believe, Organ.
a.m.

[Translation: Google]