

Life at Saint Mary's Goes to Press

Rachmaninoff Draws Record Audience

Auditorium and Stage Filled at Civic Music Concert on November 24

The composer, Beethoven; the work, the *Sonata in F minor*; the performer, Sergei Rachmaninoff; what more interesting combination could one have? The *Apassionata* was without doubt the highlight of Rachmaninoff's concert in Memorial Auditorium on last Monday night. From the sinister opening notes to the crashing close, one felt in it not only the soul of the composer but also that of the artist.

Rachmaninoff opened his concert with an *Organ Prelude and Fugue in A minor* by Bach. This was followed by the *Apassionata* and two works by Schubert. These, the *Impromptu in A flat minor* and *The Trout*, were melodic and spontaneous, two characteristics found so often in Schubert's music.

SECOND HALF LIGHTER

After intermission Rachmaninoff played one of Chopin's exquisite nocturnes, the *Nocturne in D flat major*, and two mazurkas, merry Polish dances, also written by Chopin.

There followed three works by Rachmaninoff himself, *Humoresque*, *Daisies*, and *Oriental Sketch*. These charming, picturesque numbers displayed his brilliance as a composer as well as an artist. Many are often too prone to associate the name of Rachmaninoff with his preludes alone; actually, he has composed many other works for both the piano and orchestra.

The program was concluded with the *Sonette del Petrarca*, *A flat major*, and *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 11* by Liszt. As encores he played Tchaikowsky's *Triskaen Herean* and his own *Prelude in C sharp minor*.

The Rachmaninoff concert was presented before a capacity audience that filled the spacious auditorium and overflowed onto the stage. The artist's poise and complete composure before an audience, in spite of the difficulty of having to perform with part of his listeners on the stage, made a deep impression upon the audience. However, from the time his magic fingers touched the keys of the piano in the opening bars of the *Prelude and Fugue* until the impressive conclusion of his own *Prelude in C Sharp Minor*, everything melted away except the exquisite beauty of the music.

Miss Haig Presents Recital December 9

Will Give the Second Faculty Recital in Auditorium

Miss Mary Ruth Haig will present the second faculty recital in Saint Mary's Auditorium on Tuesday, December 9, at 8:15 o'clock. Her program is as follows:

- Two Sonatas.....*Scarlatti*
C Minor
C Major
- Organ Choral Prelude *Bach-Busoni*
"Awake, the voice commands."
- Organ Fugue in G Minor,
Bach-Samaroff
- Sonata in E flat Major, Opus 27,
No. 1.....*Beethoven*
Andante—Allegro
Allegro molto e vivace
Adagio con espressione
Allegro vivace

- Prelude in C Major.....*Prokofieff*
- Fairy Tale in B flat Minor. *Medtner*
- La Soirée dans Grenade.....*Debussy*
- Ballade in G Minor.....*Chopin*
- Nocturne in E flat Major,
Opus 55, No. 2.....*Chopin*
- Scherzo in B Minor.....*Chopin*

An interesting fact about the Organ Choral Prelude by Bach-Busoni is that it is based on the melody of the hymn that we sing during Advent, "Awake, awake."

Beethoven's Sonata, made up of four movements, is like a fantasy, not so formal as most sonatas. For those who are not familiar with this music, a pause comes between the first and second, and the second and third movements, but not between the third and fourth.

Of interest to the student body is the fact that Medtner, a living Russian composer, and Rachmaninoff are very close friends. Medtner is indebted to Rachmaninoff for introducing his *Fairy Tales* (of which there are about twenty) in this country. Medtner, during the last few years, has made several concert tours in this country at which he played his *Fairy Tales*. Although an excellent composer, Medtner is not the pianist one would expect. In only recent years his compositions have appeared on concert programs.

Although a French composer, Debussy in his *La Soirée dans Grenade* has captured the Spanish rhythm and based it on the rhythm of the Habanera.

Prokofieff, another living Russian composer, began his musical career at the age of five by composing *Hindu Gallop*. By the time he was eighteen, he had published his works and gained quite a reputation.

BOOK ABOUT LIFE IN SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL WRITTEN BY ALUMNÆ

Ava Hamilton Singer Thrills Student Body

Lecturer and Photographer Presents Vivid Natural-color Pictures of Africa

Last week Mrs. Ava Hamilton Singer gave an interesting and entertaining lecture, *Dawn Over Africa*, which was illustrated by beautiful natural-colored moving pictures. Mrs. Singer is well qualified by her experience to speak, for she braved four years in the African wilds alone in an effort to learn about the African tribes and their customs.

In 1936 Mrs. Singer started from Capetown into French Equatorial Africa and reached Morocco in 1940. During her four years' traveling she had many exciting adventures. She said that her strangest experience was the time when her car dropped into the Belgian Congo, and her only really frightening experience occurred when she and her car were surrounded by a herd of elephants on a lonely road after dark!

The highlight of her performance was her natural-color photography. Her pictures of dawn, rivers, the glowing volcanic lava, the lions, elephants, giraffes, and birds in their natural habitats, the hideous big-lipped natives, the pygmies, the living conditions and festivities of the natives vividly portrayed the surroundings in which an African explorer lives and studies.

BOOKS FOR THE BELLES

Just in case you have a moment to spare here at school, or during the holidays, here are some of the best sellers you may enjoy, or your family and friends may like them as Christmas presents. Top ranking book in the field of fiction is *The Keys of the Kingdom* by A. J. Cronin, a novel about a priest by the author of *The Citadel*. Leading the list of non-fiction books is William L. Shirer's *Berlin Diary*. He is the CBS commentator, and his book is well worth your time. But don't start it before exams. You won't put it down until you have read the last page.

For all the Jalna fans, and their name is legion, *Mazo De La Roche* has brought the Whiteoaks up to the retreat from Dunkirk in *Wakefield's Course*. You may have read it se-

(See P. 3)

Miss Nell Battle Lewis and Five Other Alumnæ Write on A Century of Life at Saint Mary's

Life at Saint Mary's is the title of a book which was written by former Saint Mary's students. It will be ready for distribution at the Centennial in May by the University of North Carolina press. Only five hundred copies will be sold, at \$2.50 per copy. The book deals with the growth of the school and will contain all the important historical events. It is primarily an account of human interest: "memoirs of alumnæ will be delved into; the thoughts, doings, and habits of each generation will be set forth for us and future Saint Mary's girls to enjoy and cherish."

The first chapter, 1842-1860, which is necessarily research, is written by Katharine Drane Perry, the author of the Student Prize-Winning Essay at the Seventy-Fifth anniversary.

TWO OTHER 'LOCAL' AUTHORS

Emilie Smedes Holmes and Mrs. Lizzie W. Montgomery are the authors of the second chapter, 1860-1885, and are well qualified for their work. Mrs. Montgomery is known for her book, *Saint Mary's of Olden Days*. Mrs. Holmes stayed at Saint Mary's from the age of ten until she was a young lady.

The third chapter, 1885-1900, is written by the former Alice Duggar, now Mrs. Walter Grimes, who was teacher of music here for several years, and who is also a poetess.

Nell Battle Lewis, author of the fourth chapter, 1900-1915, is known to all Saint Mary's girls. Those who have heard her speak are looking forward to her account of school life.

The author of the next chapter, 1915-1930, Jane Toy Coolidge, secured her information by writing to alumnæ of this period and asking that they send her their most vivid memory of Saint Mary's days.

Brooke Allan, the author of the final chapter, 1930-1942, is now on the faculty of Saint Katherine's School, Richmond, Virginia. Her chapter is very impersonal, but brings the story up-to-date, giving a picture of a modern Saint Mary's.

The following paragraph is a comment from a member of the staff of the University Press:

"The manuscript seems to me an admirable piece of work. It is not merely good of its kind, but good without qualification."