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Rubinstein, Monteux Win Ovation From Throng

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The three star combine of Artur Rubinstein, Pierre Monteux and the San Francisco Symphony drew a huge audience to the Exposition Auditorium last night when the first of the year's Municipal Concerts under Art Commission auspices took place. The auditorium has had a few scenic improvements since it was last used for concert purposes and although its accoustics are the same as formerly, it was a joy to behold so huge a throng enjoying music of stellar quality.

The concert was a triumph for all concerned and brought an ovation to the soloist, who played two numbers practically unheard in this city—the Rachmaninoff piano concerto in C minor and De Falla's "Nights in the Gardens of Spain." So great was the ovation given Mr. Rubenstein that he played De Falla's "Fire Dance" as an encore, and was still taking curtain calls when the piano had been removed from the scene of action.

Fine Pianist

Rubenstein gave a magnificent performance, aided by the orchestra and Monteux. The Rachmaninoff concerto was a distinctly grateful work, showy and brilliant. Yet its Adagio had a full quota of lyric beauty which was beautifully projected. To many, the De Falla, with its exquisite atmospheric qualities—a fine example of strict musical impressionism—was even more satisfying than the Rachmaninoff. Blending of orchestral and piano passages was excellently accomplished, and Pierre Monteux gave a particularly enchanting reading of the orchestral score.

The piano holds no terror for so virtuosic a player as Rubenstein. He played the Fire Dance at a breathtaking pace and overlooked neither a note nor a nuance. It was more than fiery. It was electrifying!

Too Much

For the orchestral portion of the program Monteux gave Bach-Respighi's Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor with a fine sense of balance, form, and all its structural values and the Cesar Franck Symphony in D minor, which was played with grandeur and nobility.

The audience listened intently for considerably more than two hours. So few departed before the final notes had been sounded that one wondered if perchance the program was not too long after all. But personally, this writer thought that it was!