San Francisco Call Bulletin Thursday 6/5/1941

Rubinstein 'Rare Treat'

By MARIE HICKS DAVIDSON

Around the name Rubinstein clusters a great tradition. Grandly did Artur Rubinstein last night at the Opera House, in a piano concert under auspices of the San Francisco Opera Association, sustain that tradition.

Somewhere between the older pianist, Rachmaninoff, and the younger genius, Horowitz, is the era and individuality of Artur Rubenstein, who is endowed with the best attributes of each.

The concert was one of the rare treats of the music season and should have been more largely attended. For the benefit of those who were not privileged to hear him last night be it here recorded that he is playing Friday night at the Men's Gymnasium, University of California, Berkeley.

SUPERB RENDITION

The first half of last night's program, as stupendous an interval as any given in San Francisco this season, was Chopin. Since Rubinstein is not only a native of Poland but a zealous patriot of that at-the-moment submerged nation, it was to be expected that he would give a superb rendition of any and all things Chopinesque. He did.

Music

Singing tone, dazzling arpeggios, brilliant phrasing and sonorous chords astounded with variety of color and romanticism. Old and familiar as were the selections, they were imbued with the freshness of great art which cannot grow stale.

Then he plunged into modernity, giving a succession of Spanish compositions.

SHEER WIZARDRY

A sequence of "doll" descriptions by the Brazilian contemporary was sheer wizardry, with the subject matter not so important as the clever intricacies of the composition.

Granados, Albeniz, de Falla flowed with unbelievable facility under the remarkable fingers. Even the passe Ritual Fire Dance seemed glowingly alive. One of his encores, with which he was generous, was Debussy's "Ondine," and another the Russian dance from "Petrouchka."