

AMUSEMENTS

Rachmaninoff Recital.

Sergei Rachmaninoff gave a brilliant piano recital at Poli's Theater yesterday afternoon before an audience that occupied every available seat and never failed to manifest its pleasure. It was plain to all that the audience wanted the master to play the more famous of his preludes, and there seemed to be a grim sort of humor in his presentation of other numbers as encores. But at the close of the recital he bowed to the inevitable, and when he struck the first chords of the number that has made his name a household word wherever there is a piano the large audience broke into fervent applause.

Rachmaninoff's stage presence added to the general attractiveness of a program which opened with the Beethoven sonata in E minor, one of the loveliest works of the composer. In its interpretation the pianist used all the technical resource at his command, but did not fail to add the subtle something that has made him the great pianist he is. In lighter mood, and with a singing touch, he gave five of Mendelssohn's "Songs Without Words," his interpretations being exquisite.

To many the Chopin section, including a ballade, valse and barcarolle, was most pleasing of the three groups, but it is doubtful if even these were received with more evidence of genuine approval than were the Rachmaninoff compositions. These included "Polichinelle," opus 3, and "Barcarolle," opus 10, in both of which the master evidenced his right to a secure place among the world's best composers for the pianoforte. He closed the program with the difficult Liszt "Rhapsodie Espagnole."