

RACHMANINOFF RECITAL

Russian Pianist Heard by a Large Audience at the Academy of Music

There was a large audience at the Academy of Music yesterday afternoon in attendance at a recital given by Mr. Sergei Rachmaninoff, the distinguished Russian pianist, which was one of the most interesting and enjoyable the season has thus far produced. At this late day it is unnecessary and would indeed be little less than an impertinence to expatiate on the merits or characteristics of this fine artist's work.

In the perfection of his technique, in the elegance of his style, in the sincerity of his sentiment and in his absolute freedom from self-consciousness and from anything savoring of affectation, he is one of the most satisfying among the great pianists of the day, and he was heard with admiration and delight in a programme which included the Mozart sonata No. 9, familiar to every amateur, of which he is so fond; five of Mendelssohn's Songs Without Words, once so popular and now so completely neglected; a number of things by Chopin, comprising two Valses, a Ballade and a Barcarolle; three compositions of his own, a Mazurka, an Alla Marci Funebre and a Barcarolle, which had not been played here before and which proved very well worth while, and which was brought to a resounding conclusion with the Rhapsodie Espagnole of Liszt.

In all of these Rachmaninoff's powers of expression and execution, his versatility, his sympathetic intelligence and his impeccable good taste were displayed in a manner that elicited an enthusiastic applause. There were many demands for encores, in response to which Mr. Rachmaninoff played among other things the Spinning Wheel song of Mendelssohn and his own inevitable prelude.