
RACHMANINOFF

Rachmaninoff is not only a great, a very great, pianist, he is also a very attractive one. For Queen's Hall was thronged to its very doors when, on Saturday afternoon, he gave a pianoforte recital there. Moreover, he was listened to with that rare deference and in a dead silence until the end of the groups of works which he essayed—a deference and a respect which are kept only for the truly great.

Rachmaninoff's technique is outstanding even in a day when scores of pianists possess a prodigious technique. His sense of rhythm is unfailing and unerring; his touch is so even and so perfectly under command that every conceivable hue in any musical colour scheme can be produced at will.

The extraordinary sense of "rightness," too, is another feature of Rachmaninoff's playing. He has the rare capacity to convince one almost against one's will, as witness the B flat minor Scherzo, the tempo of which was terrifically rapid. It was "right" according to Rachmaninoff, and one accepted the fact. And so it went on to the end. His own three studies are fine pianoforte music, but little else, and Liszt's "Abendklänge" was exquisitely played—a perfect cantabile.

Small wonder that the enthusiasm of the great audience broke its bounds at the end.

R. H. L.