

Rachmaninoff Style More Assured

By MIGUEL DE REUS

An audience of modest proportions greeted Sergei Rachmaninoff warmly in the first of his two concerts here, during which he played a program that varied interestingly both in content and execution.

Rachmaninoff is an intensely personal pianist. He is fond of stepping just beyond the frontiers of accepted agreements, where one is no longer a conformist nor yet a heretic. He demonstrated this best in the Chopin sonata Op. 35, in which he took occasion to amend the poetic Pole's always definite directions. This venturesomeness is always provoking, if seldom attractive, but Rachmaninoff managed to produce exquisite moments as well as startling departures.

Altogether this artist is playing in cleaner and more assured style than during his last visit. He is still angular and explosive and finds himself cramped technically at times, but he cannot any longer be dismissed as a composer who must play piano in order to live.

Besides a Mozart sonata, he played pieces by Scriabin, Borodin, Rubinstein and himself. In tomorrow night's concert, he will present works by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt and Rachmaninoff.

Jose Iturbi to Lead