

RACHMANINOFF AT QUEEN'S HALL INTERPRETER OF GENIUS

A full house greeted Rachmaninoff on his appearance at Queen's Hall on Saturday afternoon. It is immaterial whether the audience was attracted by Rachmaninoff the interpreter or by Rachmaninoff the composer, since this musician is equally distinguished in both fields.

His programme included, as it was expected to do, a group of piano pieces of his own compositions. These he played exquisitely; his incomparable yet unobtrusive technique and his talent for penetrating the mentality of others made the interpretations of Beethoven's Thirty-Two Variations in C minor, of some Scarlatti sonatas and of Chopin's B minor sonata a sheer joy.

Curiously enough, his reading of Scarlatti was even more absolute and more brilliantly successful than his Chopin reading. In the first movement of the latter's sonata an episode or a phrase seemed heavy with thought—thought that came from the outside. Its romanticism tended towards philosophy rather than towards poetry. On the other hand, the sparkling verve of the Scarlatti performance had its source in the very heart of the music.
