

Famous Pianist's Visit

Rachmaninoff, the famous Russian pianist, who made his first appearance in Bath last week at the Pavilion, enjoys a cup of tea after the manner of his countrymen. When I had a chat with him after the performance I noticed that he was sipping his tea without milk, but with the addition of a slice of lemon.

While in England on this professional visit, Rachmaninoff is fulfilling engagements in London, Bournemouth, and Eastbourne. He will afterwards tour in France, and will spend the summer at his villa in Switzerland. An unusually large pile of autograph books awaited this celebrity's signature. Evidently many enthusiasts had been eagerly awaiting this visit, in the hope of securing this "scalp."

Rachmaninoff Refutes Rumour

Many stories have been current of the "programme basis" of the Russian pianist's best-known composition, the C sharp minor Prelude. I was told some time ago quite seriously that the agitated passages of this work were intended to depict the emotions of a man who awakes to discover that he has been buried alive, and tries vainly to escape from his coffin. I asked the composer on Friday if this story had any foundation in fact, and was assured that it was entirely incorrect. No such fantastic idea ever entered his mind. He regards this work as simply an ordinary composition. Greatly to the delight of his audience he played it on Friday as an encore.

Done Madge Kendal 11