

MUSIC EVENTS

Rachmaninoff Soloist at Boston Symphony Concert

The distinguished Russian composer-pianist, Sergei Vassilievich Rachmaninoff, was the soloist at the Boston Symphony Orchestra concert last night at the Academy of Music—which fact was in a great measure responsible for the crowded house which greeted Mr. Rabaud on his entrance. The program. The program last night was of the so-called romantic school—the Brahms Second Symphony, and the "Roman Carnival" overture by Berlioz.

The outstanding feature of the symphony was the exquisite singing tone of the strings and although Mr. Rabaud's treatment of this work lacked a great deal of the elasticity and free action of which we have become accustomed, the surety of his beat brought splendid response from the orchestra. The third movement, Mozartian in style, was read with extreme grace and breadth of style and finish as was the finale.

The Rachmaninoff Concerto No. 2 in C Minor had not been heard here for a number of years—in fact not since 1908 when it was played by Ossip Grabllovitch as soloist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and it remained for the composer to reveal its technical and melodic charm. Mr. Rachmaninoff is undoubtedly one of the present giants of the keyboard—which fact is no doubt responsible for the ponderous tone he exacted from the piano last night. A work of merit, it is difficult to surmise why it is not heard more often. He received an ovation at the finish of his number and almost succumbed to the incessant calls for "Prelude! Prelude!"

The concert concluded with the Berlioz overture "Le Carnaval Roman," which we are told takes its chief thematic material from the composer's opera "Benvenuto Cellini." Taking for its opening theme a "saltarello" or ancient Italian dance—it breathes the true riotous spirit of the Carnival and was afforded fine treatment at the hands of the orchestra. The final Boston Symphony concert of the present season will be held on Friday evening, March 21.