

PHILHARMONIC CONCERT

The engagement of Serge Rachmaninoff to play his own "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini" with the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, undoubtedly accounted for the increased attendance at the Society's eleventh concert in the Central Hall, Liverpool, last night.

The programme was one typically representative of the conductor, Sir Hamilton Harty, commencing with Berlioz's Overture, "Beatrice and Benedict," and finishing with three pieces appertaining to Ireland. The Rachmaninoff work dominated the second half of the concert, and the composer's magnificent display at the keyboard was easily the centre-piece of the performance. Paganini's 24 Caprice theme has proved excellent foil for many composers, but Rachmaninoff has invested his Rhapsody with all the contrapuntal tricks and technical ingenuities which result from his superlative qualities as a pianist.

Sir Hamilton Harty in the Dvorak Symphony, No. 2, Op. 70, worked hard to gain his own ends. The performance was good, but one was aware of the difficulty of the work.

In Sir Hamilton Harty's Fantasy, "In Ireland," the solo flute part was ably played by Mr. Vernon Harris. **R.C.S.**