

RACHMANINOFF PAINTS TONE PICTURES

Piano Recital in Newcastle

Rachmaninoff likes playing in Newcastle. That Newcastle likes his playing was evidenced in that there was one of the biggest audiences in the current season of International Celebrity Concerts at the City Hall last night. The famous pianist seemed rather tired during the first half and the clarity usually apparent in the embroideries of Chopin was not always there. The "A Minor Ballade" was rushed rather than dignified, but the recitalist reasserted his full grip in the Italian concerto of Bach and in several tone pictures which he painted brilliantly. Among these were Debussy's "Suite Bergamasque," his "Oriental Sketch," and Liszt's "Rustling Woods" and "Gnomes' Dance." He did not produce his "Prelude in C sharp Minor," which he finds so famous that it tends to obscure his greater works as a composer. The prelude he played was his lesser known one in G Major. Among his encore numbers was a charming piece by his friend Tchaikowski, "In the Troike" (Russian horse sleigh), another brilliant bit of tone painting.