

MUSIC

RACHMANINOFF'S RECITAL.

Rachmaninoff, whose name has come to mean the foremost living Russian exponent of piano music and a leading composer of the present day, presented his annual piano recital before an audience that completely filled the standing-room limits of Poli's Theater yesterday afternoon.

The pianist opened his program with two organ preludes by Bach, as transcribed for the piano by Busoni. In the first was the soft, lingering mood of a type that suggested "Now Comes the Gentile's Savior." In the livelier mood of the second, "Rejoice, Beloved Christians," the facility and skill of the pianist became more apparent. There was undeniably characteristic Rachmaninoff treatment in the Liszt "Fantasia quasi Sonata," with its Dante version of Hades in brilliant musical translation. Also the pianist's own style dominated his Chopin. The "Fantasia in F Minor" was played as it seldom has been played here before. The "Scherzo in C Sharp Minor" was delightful, and the "Polonaise," its andante sostenuto in contrasting pianissimo color, was an unusually interesting number. Medtner's charming "Fairy Tale," with its clever outlining of adventurous theme, bold heroes, growling dragons, galloping horses, and always throughout the gay, saucy d'Artagnan main theme prancing along, was never more fascinatingly set forth. A rarely heard Rachmaninoff "Prelude" followed, but its impressionistic beauties were lost probably upon some who had the famous "C Sharp Minor Prelude" firmly in mind. These folks, however, won their reward in due time, for the final encore was the prelude. A fine performance of "Valse-Caprice No. 1," by Strauss-Tausig, completed the program.

The encores were Chopin's "Nocturne in E Flat Major," Mr. Rachmaninoff's arrangement of Moussorgsky's "Hopak," and the "Prelude in C Sharp Minor."

Throughout the afternoon the audience was enthusiastic and at the end lingered on, the way Rachmaninoff audiences have a habit of doing until there are definite signs that there will be no more music.

H. P.