

RACHMANINOFF.

Russian Master Stirs Audience With Brilliant Program.

Rachmaninoff is not a new star on the musical horizon, neither is he the first pianist this season to play a brilliant program to a critical Toronto audience, but last night in Massey Hall the great Russian master stirred a good-sized house to its very depths.

Iturbi earlier in the season, too, roused a Toronto house to a high pitch of enthusiasm, but Iturbi was a newcomer, and there was an element of surprise and excitement in his appearance. Sergel Rachmaninoff played to an audience to which he was well known, most of those present having heard him several times.

But Rachmaninoff last night put into his performance all the brilliance and thrilling fire of a spectacular debut, but held and stirred his listeners with the exquisite beauty, the rare understanding of his interpretations and the charm of his personality. With the gracious simplicity of the truly great, Rachmaninoff delighted in the tremendous applause which followed his presentations, which included Beethoven's Sonata, Op. 18, the charming Schumann "Novelette," Op. 21, F sharp minor, an interesting group of Etudes Tableaux, the great composer's own work; Sonata, Opus. 35, B flat minor (Chopin), and Valse Caprice, by Strauss-Tausig.

The first three numbers were given without any intermission, the artist scarcely taking time between them for more than a modest bow to the audience. The last two numbers he gave in the same way. Then, when the printed program was concluded, he played four encores. Two of these were well-loved Chopin numbers, the E flat Nocturne and a waltz.