

Music

By FELIX DEYO

RACHMANINOFF PLAYS

THE usual throng of persons whose musical interest is so especially awakened by the pianoforte playing of Serge Rachmaninoff, eminent Russian composer-pianist, crowded the opera house of Brooklyn's Academy last night. Mr. Rachmaninoff's recital is an annual event here.

The programme presented: Sonata, Op. 78 (Beethoven), Novelette in F sharp minor (Schumann), Sonata in B flat minor (Chopin), Etudes Tableaux, Op. 33 (Rachmaninoff), Valse Caprice (Strauss-Tausig).

The Beethoven sonata, as played by Rachmaninoff, was far from a profound publication of its contents, and furthermore revealed certain technical faults of the pianist. His attack was noticeably harsh and obviously unpleasant. The Schumann found Mr. Rachmaninoff on happier pianistic soil, and drama ran high in the Chopin sonata. Here was the most effective interpretation of the evening, dazzling in execution and thrilling in expressional revelation. It was an electrifying exposition.

The pianist's own pieces, six in number, represented the acme of Russian romanticism. They were superbly played. At the programme's close, encores followed, among them the inevitable prelude, favorite of the masses.