

RACHMANINOFF'S RECITAL.

Great Enthusiasm At Colston Hall, Bristol.

Rachmaninoff's recital attracted a great audience to the Colston Hall, Bristol, last night. The eminent composer-pianist had a characteristic Bristol reception and the scene in the immense hall was a remarkable one. Even Rachmaninoff, reserved and dignified man that he is, appeared deeply moved by the warmth of his welcome.

So great is Rachmaninoff's sheer interpretive power that the attention is caught and held by force and clarity of his musical expression. Rachmaninoff makes music speak so plainly that the mind of the listener must follow him, to the exclusion of all else. If the composer had aught of value to say, he may safely depend upon Rachmaninoff to convey the full sense of it.

It is not surprising, therefore, that last night's audience listened spell-bound to him, and when he finished applauded him to the echo. At the end of the programme he responded many times to their demand for more.

Great Interpretive Skill.

He first played Schubert-Tausig Andantino and variations, giving full effect to the romantic theme. Schumann's Davidsbündler Tanze Op. 6, followed, eighteen characteristic pieces, full of rhythm, and a delightful, vivid fancifulness, in the rendering of which Rachmaninoff's accomplished musicianship was strikingly apparent.

Further proof of his interpretive skill was furnished in three of Chopin's pieces, two Scherzos and Nocturne in F Major, which evoked more applause than any other piece in the first part of the programme.

Five of Rachmaninoff's own Preludes followed, including the one in G Minor, and the famous one in C Sharp Minor. An imposing programme concluded with Liszt's Etude in D flat Major, Valse Impromptu, and Carnaval de Pesh. The Carnaval consists of a series of short sections based on popular Hungarian songs and dances. Some of its passages demand lightning-like speed of execution and gave Rachmaninoff an opportunity of displaying a technical command that one could but marvel at—for there was no sacrifice of feeling.

This concert was the third of the International Celebrity series organised by Mr Chas. H. Leckier. Interesting details of a special gala night, early in December, will appear in Music Notes in the 'Western Daily Press' on Friday.