⚬ MUSIC ⚬

Rachmaninoff Had Great Reception at Recital on Monday

For years now Rachmaninoff has been one of the few people who can always get a big audience in Montreal and on Monday evening he had about as big an audience as ever—an audience of enthusiasts who were even more eager to applaud than to listen. His playing was as wonderful as always, with its amazing dexterity of wrists and fingers, and his program gave plenty of opportunities of displaying it. He began with an arrangement of his own of a movement from one of Bach's sonatas for solo violin, a most ingenious arrangement which made brilliant piano music without going too far from Bach. The agility of the playing was still greater in another Rachmaninoff arrangement, of the Scherzo from Mendelssohn's "Midsummer Night's Dream" music, right at the end of the program. This, while it brings in nothing that is not in the score, brings in rather too much and is heavier than Mendelsshon's own piano arrangement. But these things were as nothing in comparison with the marvels of playing which were put into Tausig's bedevilment of Weber's "Invitation to the Valse," but there is so much Tausig in this that it was playing for pianists.

Between these came the more serious part of the program, starting with Beethoven in the "Appassionata" sonata, in which playing as good as in all the rest of the recital was used with so much learning and wisdom and with so nice a calculation of every effect that there was not much room left for passion. The most satisfying number in the whole program was the slow and poetical performance of the Schumann "Nachtstueck"; Schubert's delightful Impromptu in F minor was brilliant but taken too fast to let all the good things in the music come out. The rest of the program contained a group of Chopin —a Nocturne, a Mazurka and the Fantasie, which would have been much better if the audience had not applauded in the middle—and two good Rachmaninoff Preludes—in B minor and A minor; the C sharp minor came of course, as a night-cap when all the program was ended.