

PIANIST THRILLS GLASGOW

Rachmaninoff's Recital

THE world-renowned pianist, Rachmaninoff, made a welcome reappearance in Glasgow last night when he gave a recital at St Andrew's Hall.

The first part of the programme consisted of the Bach-Tausig Tocatta and Fugue in D Major, Beethoven Sonata in D Major, Op. 10, No. 3, and Chopin's Sonata in B Flat Major, Op. 10. Though the performance of the last named number had sustained interest throughout its course, we felt that the interpretation of the whole did not fully reflect all its emotional contents, as there was a lack of fire in his playing of the Sonata, also of the Finale.

"SINGING" QUALITY

The "Funeral March" however was performed with impressive dignity, and the following Trio with lovely "singing" quality of tone and beautiful expression.

The second part of the programme consisted of a selection of smaller pieces, refreshingly unacknowledged.

First we had Poeme in F Sharp Major, Op. 32, No. 1, by Scriabin.

played with delight, a sense of tone and realization of its poetry. This was followed by an Etude in D Sharp Minor, Op. 3, No. 11, of the same composer, which was rendered with rare accuracy of tone and striking passionate urge. Malinovsky Concerto in E Minor, Op. 34, No. 1, and Sonata in A Flat for Scriabin followed. Both are pieces of great power and of fine texture, but were not given the formal fitting subjects of the recital, or the study the pianist's approach of which he has at times shown.

OWN COMPOSITIONS

Two pieces of Rachmaninoff named Moment Musical and E Flat Major, Op. 16, No. 2, Poeme in G Sharp Minor, Op. 10, No. 2, and Funeral Sketch, were the main part of the programme. All are effective pieces and are especially welcome for the pianoforte. They were magnificently performed.

As closing item we had an Etude, Opus de Concert in F Minor, Op. 28, No. 12, by Debussy. Its exacting technical difficulties were met with ease.

At the close the audience gave evidence of their appreciation of Rachmaninoff's great qualities as a pianist by enthusiastic applause. As encore he gave fascinating renderings of a mazurka and waltz by Chopin. Also in response to calls from the audience he played his famous Prelude in C Sharp Minor.

J. R. F.