

MONDAY MUSICALE

Sergei Rachmaninoff Heard at the Last of the Present Series

The last in the current series of Monday Morning Musicales, which have been among the great successes of the season, both artistically and otherwise, took place in the presence of a very large audience in the Ballroom of the Bellevue-Stratford yesterday afternoon, when Mr. Sergei Rachmaninoff, the distinguished Russian pianist, was heard with unbounded admiration and pleasure in a varied and interesting selection of numbers by Mozart, Chopin, Tschaikowsky and Liszt, etc.

Chopin's sonata in B minor, which appeared on the programme, was not done. In place of it were given the Mozart Theme with Variations and Turkish March, of which Mr. Rachmaninoff seems to be very fond, for he has played it here on several previous occasions; one of Chopin's Ballades and the familiar waltz in G major by the same composer. The several qualities for which the Russian pianist has been frequently praised before were conspicuously displayed in the performance of yesterday's programme. To employ a metaphor whose aptness may excuse its triteness, he plays as though he had fingers of steel encased in gloves of velvet. He unites great strength with an extraordinary delicacy and in the subtle refinement and extensive range of his tone gradations he is unsurpassed if not unequalled.

These characteristics were conspicuously exhibited in his reading of the Mozart music, which was exquisite in the simplicity of its feeling and the lucidity of its expression, but they were not absent from anything he did and in the Chopin Ballade, in the two dainty little things of his own "Lilacs" and "Polka de W. R." and in the second Rhapsody of Liszt, with which the concert closed, he was equally satisfying. He was enthusiastically applauded, and in response to an encore played the inevitable C sharp minor prelude, to the general delight. Announcement has been made of a sixth series of these Musicales during the season of 1921-22.