

MUSIC EVENTS

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF DELIGHTS AT ACADEMY

One of the few men now before the public who combines the technique of a virtuoso with genuine musicianship, individuality and poetic sensibility, Sergei Rachmaninoff, held his audience enthralled, at the Academy of Music last night. His program included his own and other compositions.

Rachmaninoff's style of playing is absolutely his own. Alive with color, with expressive nuance, with dynamic and rhythmical modulations and graduations of tone, it brought vividly to the surface the emotional substance of each piece of music.

The recital was given under the auspices of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences. Rachmaninoff was enthusiastically applauded by an audience that filled the auditorium comfortably. It is noteworthy that the most vociferous display of appreciation came with the presentation of the artist's own Elegie, Op. 3 and Polka de W. R., which he supplemented with an encore.

Perhaps the most important number on the program was a group from Chopin including Ballade No. 3, Nocturne Op. 27; Valse, D Flat Major and Scherzo, Op. 39. Rachmaninoff's reading of Chopin as a whole was characterized by largeness of plan, clarity and crispness of technique, rather than by a broader display of musical tone. In the slow movements, there were rare finesse and poetic feeling.

The Russian opened his program with Ballade No. 2, by Liszt, which was given with fine spirit and rhythm. Ballade, Op. 24, by Grieg, followed, and after this the Chopin group capped by his own compositions.

Etude (Capriccio), Op. 28, by Dohnanyi, was rendered in the masterful style that characterized the entire recital and may be said to have been introductory to the presentation of selections by Rachmaninoff and his very good and distinguished friend, Fritz Kreisler. Tarantella (Venezia e Napoli), by Liszt, concluded the recital.

Rachmaninoff undoubtedly is one of the foremost masters of the pianoforte, living today, and many of last night's auditors drew comparisons between the accomplishments of the Russian and the beloved Polish musician, Ignace Paderewski. Both possess remarkable genius, but of a quality so entirely at variance as to make comparisons out of place, to say the least.