

Sergel Rachmaninoff, the angular, saturnine Russian, took the stage of the Auditorium last night, at least as much of it as extends beyond the steel curtain, and demonstrated certain semi-orchestral and wholly fascinating possibilities in piano playing. He is a reviving influence among recital givers because he can take a time honored work and without distorting it or going beyond its logic give it a new and interesting aspect. His Bach Partita, the fourth in D major, was as steady as a rock, yet widely different from the customary recitalist's Bach; his Chopin Sonata, that in B minor, throbbed with a highly unaccustomed degree of rhythm.