

## MUSIC

A Great Recital by  
Rachmaninoff

There were two magnificent things in the recital which Sergei Rachmaninoff gave at Princess Theatre on Sunday afternoon — Beethoven's Funeral March Sonata and Schumann's Etudes Symphoniques. The Schumann produced, perhaps, the bigger effect of the two, but the playing of the sonata was astoundingly fine, with every sort of shading of tone and color. The result was all the better for the fact that Rachmaninoff took the whole work with not more than a slight pause between movements, so that the effect of the jump from the Scherzo to the Funeral March and from that to the Finale lost none of its value, and the impression made on the audience was very evident. Without leaving the stage, he gave two little Etudes by Mendelssohn, just to make a breathing space, and then went straight on to the Etudes Symphoniques, out of which he got everything that Schumann had put into them, and added a little of his own for good measure. This was the first part of the recital, and almost a recital in itself.

For the rest of the afternoon Rachmaninoff went on playing as splendidly as ever, but it, of necessity, seemed a little tame compared with what had gone before. Liszt's picture of a rather disturbed "Funeral" was followed by two Fairy Tales by Medtner, the first most fairy-like and charming, the second more vigorous and clearly full of giants and ogres. Rachmaninoff's own two Etudes Tableaux were worth hearing, and would probably be even more so at some other time. To end the program there came a hash by Tausig of a Strauss Waltz. The only fault that could be found with the program was that it was a little too long for good digestion, and would have been much better without the Liszt and the Tausig. But many of the audience—a very big one—were still ready for more, and got it. After two other things—Chopin and an arrangement of a Schubert song—Rachmaninoff surrendered to fate and played the inevitable prelude. It is usually understood that the playing of this releases Rachmaninoff from further work, but Sunday's audience wanted still more, and got it.

H. P. B.