

RUSSIAN COMPOSER PLAYED OWN WORKS

Rachmaninoff Delighted Large Audience With Interpreta- tion of Famous Prelude

Rachmaninoff was heard at His Majesty's Theatre yesterday afternoon playing Rachmaninoff, and his beautiful interpretation of his own compositions proved a revelation to many students of music, who were present. The famous Russian composer and pianist, played many other compositions, but all interest centred on his own works, and the result justified the interest. When it came to his own compositions the audience, already delighted with a singularly beautiful series of presentations of the works of past masters, sat back to await his ideas of his own music.

There was no disappointment. Rachmaninoff was evidently in melodic mood, and opened the suite with his Polichinelle which is well known to music students and concert goers. He gave it a sharp differentiation between the more thoughtful passages and the bursts of mild melody that made it a living story. It was the same with the famous Prelude in C Sharp Minor, the hope and despair of every piano student. This, the Reccessional of modern music, Rachmaninoff played in a distinc-

tive manner, the underlying tragedy of his theme being brought out with a series of bass effects and crescendos that made it a work of vital force.

He also played his Preludes in G Sharp Minor and D Minor, both of which were of distinctive effect, although they lacked the instant recognition of his more famous works. On his previous appearances here Rachmaninoff played only a few of his compositions. His recital of them yesterday revealed new beauties.

In his other work Rachmaninoff displayed an unusual mastery that amounted to inspiration, especially in his tone coloring. As to his execution, that needs no reference—he does not play so much as he interprets the ideals of the composers. His playing of the opening Beethoven variations was marred by late arrivals, but his playing of the Godowsky transcriptions was marked by wonderful tonal qualities, and an appreciation of the Godowsky poetic instinct that delighted the audience. This was followed by a series of Tausig transcriptions of Scarlatti and Strauss that were compelling in their effect, while a Chopin waltz as an encore was delightful.

Rachmaninoff concluded his programme with a brilliant reading of the 2nd Liszt Rhapsodie, interpolating a number of arrangements entirely his own. It was not Liszt, but was an original conception of this work that made a valuable study.