

RACHMANINOFF RECITAL

Distinguished Russian Pianist Heard in an Interesting Programme

There was a large audience at the Academy of Music yesterday afternoon in attendance at a recital given by Mr. Sergei Rachmaninoff, the distinguished Russian pianist, an artist whose popularity seems to increase with each recurrent visit. The programme which had been prepared for the occasion was short and simple and unpretentious, but not uninteresting. It began with Beethoven's sonata Op. 31, a composition of which Mr. Rachmaninoff seems to be fond, as he has played it here more than once before, and it proceeded with the Rondo Capriccioso of Mendelssohn and a Chopin group which comprised the F minor Ballade and the Scherzo Op. 31.

Then came two of Rachmaninoff's own pieces, the Valse Op. 10 and the Etude Tableaux, Op. 9, and the list was closed with Liszt's tremendous transcription of the waltz from Gounod's "Faust." It will be observed that this is an arrangement which did not subject the technical resources of an interpreter to any very excessive strain and which did not provide the opportunity for any fresh revelation of his powers. It did, however, enable him to delight an enthusiastically admiring audience and to deepen the extremely favorable impression which he had previously made. Mr. Rachmaninoff is one of the most satisfying of pianists in the top notch class to which he belongs, because his style is so sane, sound and safe and because he never undertakes any personal exploitation.

He devotes himself exclusively to the performance of the music in whose interpretation he is engaged and he plays with so much beauty of tone, brilliancy of execution and clarity of vision that the thought of the composer is always expressed with a plenary and convincing significance. Thus, apart from the pleasure which they afford, his recitals have an educational value which many of those present yesterday afternoon must have recognized and appreciated. He was much and deservedly applauded and frequently encored.