

RACHMANINOFF AGAIN PROVES HIMSELF GREAT MASTER OF THE PIANO

Rachmaninoff's recital last night, the second of the Ellis series, created an impression scarcely less profound than that made by his appearance here last year. Few pianists before the public today unite as he does, a prodigious keyboard facility with a rarely poetic temperament and a bracing sanity in emotional expression. His command of tonal coloring, of dynamics, of delicate, flawless passage work was such that every run, every turn, every cadence proceeding from his magic fingers was a delight to the ear. And there was never any suggestion of an attempt to force the piano beyond its tonal capacity. The groups included in the first half of the program, the Mozart Sonata in A, No. 9, Le Coucou of Daquin, a Momento Capriccioso of Weber, and four pieces from Debussy's Childrens Corner, were, for the most part, rather unusual numbers to be played in so large a place as Elmwood Music Hall, suggesting, as they do, the intimacy of a smaller hall. The Mozart, however, revealed an altogether lovely tone, outlines of exquisite clearness in all the ornamental work, and a blitheness of spirit throughout. In the Debussy group, the Little Shepherd was magically evoked, piping on the heath among gentle Debussyan breezes. Rachmaninoff's imagination was unflinching and his hand always dexterous in the drawing of the elusive, atmospheric pictures. The Chopin numbers, the Barcarolle and the E flat Waltz, were delivered in straightforward, sympathetic fashion. The C sharp minor Waltz, however, given as an encore, suffered somewhat from excessive rubato. The program included further, Rachmaninoff's somewhat bombastic Polichinelle, Op. 3, and his Barcarolle, Op. 10, the latter decidedly the product of a riper genius. Liszt's Rhapsodie Espagnole was the official conclusion, a Chopin C sharp Mazurka being added as final encore. Mendelssohn's Hunting Song and Rachmaninoff's much played C sharp minor Prelude also appeared as encores in the course of the evening.

M. Q. C.