

Philharmonic Society Gives Russian Program

The Philharmonic Society gave an all-Russian program last evening, which included a soloist of the same nationality, Serge Rachmaninoff, who played Tschaikowsky's B flat minor Concerto. The other works were Mousorgsky's Symphonic Fantasy, "A Night on a Bald Mountain," and Mr. Rachmaninoff's beautiful second Symphony in E minor. It was the Russian composer-pianist's second appearance with this orchestra within a week. He gave an intense performance of his countryman's concerto, taking the first movement at an unusually rapid pace. In other respects his playing was thoughtful and sensitive, often brilliant in the solo passages.

The effective orchestration of Mousorgsky's excursion into the region of the macabre, "A Night in a Bald Mountain," is Rimsky Korsakoff's. This delightfully eerie picture of the Black Mass and revels held by the followers of the Black God Chernobog, is terminated by the coming of dawn and the sound of the church bell, which puts the spirits to flight.

Mr. Rachmaninoff's symphony, aside from its importance as a piece of symphonic writing, contains extraordinarily appealing music. It runs the whole gamut of emotions, and many pages are so full of human joy and human suffering, eloquently expressed; that the instinct is not to dissect but to enjoy.