

MUSIC

By Richard Aldrich

The New York Symphony Society.

The historical cycle of the New York Symphony Society reached Brahms in the concert given yesterday afternoon (and to be repeated this evening) in Carnegie Hall. Mr. Damrosch suitably devoted the whole program to his music. It included the second symphony, the "Academic Festival" overture and the violin concerto, played by Mr. Fritz Kreisler.

There was nothing here entirely new or unfamiliar; in fact, the symphony and concerto have been played this season more than once, on non-cyclical occasions. But the performance of the concerto by Mr. Kreisler is always an event of exceptional importance and was so considered by the audience yesterday. Few artists have ever played it here, as he has been doing for now so many years, with more breadth and repose, more fire and eloquence, more deep-seated beauty of conception and performance. His playing roused much enthusiasm yesterday.

The symphony was given with much delicacy. Mr. Damrosch gave full utterance to the lyric note of the composition; there were fine tone and shading, elastic and freely modified tempo. Much pleasure was given by the "Academic Festival" overture a most ingenious and most musical treatment of students' songs.

The Philharmonic Society.

At the concert of the New York Philharmonic Society, which was heard by an audience that completely filled the hall, the soloist was Mr. Sergei Rachmaninoff, who played his own first concerto. He himself had played it at a concert of the Philharmonic Society just eleven years ago, on his first visit to New York.

It has not been heard here since so frequently as his second concerto. Yet it is a composition abounding in musical beauties, poetical in its conception, distinguished in its workmanship. It is difficult and elaborate, yet its difficulties are not for the purpose of creating an external brilliancy, but are an expression of the musical thought. The themes are unusually long and complex, and for this reason not easy to follow.

Mr. Rachmaninoff played the concerto in his extremely finished and unobtrusive style, yet a style that is powerful and brilliant, making no account of difficulties. Mr. Rachmaninoff's performance was masterly and received long continued and most enthusiastic plaudits of the audience, and he was many times recalled.

There was also demonstrative appreciation for Mr. Strinsky's performance of Beethoven's fifth symphony, which preceded the concerto. The concert was opened with Brahms's "Tragic" overture and was closed with the overture to "Die Meistersinger."