

RACHMANINOFF RECITAL

Attracts a Capacity Audience to the Academy of Music Yesterday Afternoon

There was an audience of capacity dimensions at the Academy of Music yesterday afternoon in attendance at the recital given there by Mr. Sergei Rachmaninoff, and it was aroused to frequent outbursts of enthusiastic applause by the brilliant performance of an extremely interesting programme whose principal features were the Sonata Appassionata of Beethoven, the B flat minor sonata of Chopin, the one with the funeral march, and the Liszt-Paganini "Campanella."

In his interpretation of these, and of the minor numbers on the list, Mr. Rachmaninoff again displayed those qualities of hand, head and heart which have placed him in the front rank of living pianists, and to which he is indebted for his abounding popularity. It is too late a day to descant on those characteristics and attainments of his with which every concert-goer is so admirably familiar. It is not so much that he possesses a technique which is equal to any difficulty, for in these days a well developed technique which is such a matter of course in the case of a pianist of any serious pretensions, but that he plays with so much eloquence of expression, with so much flexibility of movement and variety of emphasis and with so wide a range of illustrative coloring.

Especially fine and satisfying was his reading of the Beethoven sonata, the full measure of whose emotional contents was communicated without any sentimental exaggeration, but with a convincing sincerity and an intelligently appreciative feeling, while the beauties of Chopin's poetic music lost nothing of their significance or value in his presentation of them. He did not try to extract from the funeral march all the gloom and sadness which it suggests, but played it with an artistic sobriety, and always he conveyed the impression of one who is master alike of himself and of his instrument.

As may be supposed there were numerous demands for encores, to which Mr. Rachmaninoff responded with a good-natured liberality of which too strong a disposition was shown to take advantage; but that is an old story.