

Grand Old Man of Piano Gives Recital Here

BY EDWARD MOORE.

Sergei Rachmaninoff, grand old master of the piano keyboard, appeared yesterday afternoon at Orchestra hall in a recital with a new idea of program construction. It was to assemble some two hours of fantasies for the piano, without reference to age or composer, but merely that they bore the name of fantasy.

One was a sonata fantasy, another was a sonata almost a fantasy, a third a fantasy almost a sonata. The composers were Scriabin, Haydn, Chopin, Schumann, Beethoven, and Liszt, almost as representative an assortment as though his program had been entirely of sonatas or rondos.

Mr. Rachmaninoff is a great player with a distinguished manner. Probably because his technical ability is so highly developed, he is able to vary his style at will. Thus his Scriabin is not in the least like his Beethoven, and his Chopin is different from either. Incidentally the Beethoven work was the one popularly miscalled the "Moonlight" sonata. It is almost never played in recital programs, and one wonders why, because he made a fine and moving performance of it.