

CROWD APPLAUDS RACHMANINOFF

Sergei Rachmaninoff had an audience yesterday afternoon at Symphony Hall that filled all seats and most of the standing room. The pianist was, as usual, enthusiastically applauded. Also, as usual, the high point of the afternoon for many listeners was his playing among the final encores of his own C sharp minor Prelude. The opening chords were interrupted by eager applause from an audience that sat up on the edge of its seats to hear and see the better.

Mr. Rachmaninoff played a Chopin group, Schumann's "Carnival," his own Prelude in G sharp minor and Serenade, his arrangement of Kreisler's "Liebesleid," Medtner's "Fairy Tale," and the bedizened version of Johann Strauss' "Blue Danube" perpetrated by Schulz-Evler. Also many extra numbers.

Every great pianist has his besetting musical sin. With Paderewski and Hofmann it is a tendency to pound, with Bauer to let the left hand get out of step with the right, with Rachmaninoff it is a tendency to overspeed familiar numbers, like the "March of the Davidsbundler" and Chopin's A flat Polonaise. Apart from this the performance yesterday was extraordinarily fine, with rhythmic energy and tunefulness, the musical virtues anyone can feel and understand, raised to the nth power.