

MUSIC

SYMPHONY HALL

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Olympians need not be cold or austere, even on a rainy November afternoon. Warm and dry within a concert hall, they may sit at a piano and conjure visions of nature in a more amenable mood. Sergei Rachmaninoff did just this yesterday afternoon at Symphony Hall in one of the most vivid piano recitals which this listener has ever

AMUSEMENTS

METROPOLITAN NOW

"EBB TIDE"

in Color!

RAY MILLAND
FRANCES FARMER
OSCAR HOMOLKA
LLOYD HOLAN
Bery Fitzgerald

* HAL LeROY

* LOTTIE MAYER'S
SENSATIONAL
DISAPPEARING
WATER
BALLET

* CHARIOTEERS

* FREDERICK SYLVESTER
and HIS NEPHEWS
* EARL LAVENE AND
HELEN WARE
* SWING-O-PATORS

PARAMOUNT and FENWAY

EDDIE CANTOR "Ali Baba Goes to Town"
with Tony Martin-June Lang
Also 'DANGEROUSLY YOURS'

SCOLLAY and MODERN

Errol FLYNN-John BLONDELL
"THE PERFECT SPECIMEN"

heard from him. The great Russian musician was greeted and applauded by a large audience to whom bad weather meant nothing.

Since he is an Olympian both in the character of his playing and his magnificent technique, Mr Rachmaninoff invariably excites and sometimes exalts his listeners. But not always has he played with the pervading warmth that yesterday transformed a Rachmaninoff recital into a memorable occasion.

The "Italian" Concerto of J. S. Bach, and one of Beethoven's agreeable but lesser sonatas—the second of Opus 31, provided a poetic approach to the climax of the program: the Chopin C-sharp minor Scherzo. To Mr Rachmaninoff, Bach is evidently a poetic composer, for he plays Bach's music with a wealth of subtle color and emphasis. Many are content to grind strict meter, but they are wrong if they bring out only one side of Bach, the side which Constant Lambert so neatly called "sewing-machine counterpoint."

A greater Beethoven Sonata would have been more worthy of Mr Rachmaninoff's gifts, but the chosen work was beautifully treated. Beethoven's capricious changes of time at the beginning of the first movement were, perhaps, too extreme. Otherwise, here was perfection of style.

The familiar Chopin Scherzo finds place on many a program just to show off the speed and strength of many a pianist. Despite such yeoman service, the piece is music of grandeur. As such Mr Rachmaninoff interpreted it, and for once the composer's conception must have been made plain.

The "Bergamasque" Suite of Debussy, two original items, and a brace of numbers by Liszt formed the latter part of the program.

C. W. D.