YORKSHIRE POST

# Piano maestro gets standing ovation

A capacity audience at Hull City Hall rose spontaneously to give Artur Rubinstein a standing ovation at the end of his recital and justly paid homage to some remarkable playing by the 86-year-old maestro — playing whose warm musicianship and ravishing senses of tone colour belonged to a historic tradition now, alas, largely forgotten.

It was the last in the present season of Hull Philharmonic Society's sponsored concerts. This time the sponsor was Ideal Standard, Ltd., whose additional donation, a magnificent new Steinway Grand presented to Hull Philharmonic Society, was making its first concert appearance on this occasion.

In short pieces by Schubert, Debussy and Chopin, it was Rubinstein's remarkable ability to impel melodic phrases through large musical spans and to characterise structure by means of highly individual tone colours, growing from the textures of the music and sustained over large periods, that was so impressive and beguiling.

With Beethoven's "Appassionata" sonata he was less successful — the first movement did not find a sufficiently cohesive structural unity while the sheer velocity of the finale submerged many details which point to a rougher-hewn toughness of musical character.

But such reservations seemed of less importance than usual in the face of so much masterly playing elsewhere.

Large numbers attended the lavish supper party afterwards — a feature which does much to enhance the character of the sponsored concerts and is fast proving a notable asset to Humberside social life — where Mr. Rubinstein proved equally compulsive as an after-dinner raconteur. — **A. H.**