Rubenstein All-Chopin Program Put in Class of Unforgettable

TWO unusual things happened yesterday afternoon at Orchestra Hall. First of all Artur Rubinstein played an all-Chopin program in a manner seldom heard hereabouts. Second, he wrote his own program notes affirming his avowed purpose of playing pieces which were chiefly representative of Chopin's heroic rather than his lyrical style.

This he proceeded to do in such a way that few of his listeners will forget it in a hurry.

Do not be fooled into thinking that Mr. Rubinstein's use of the word "heroic" meant works of the same mood. There was plenty of variety in this program, from the Polonaises, the great B Minor Sonata and the G Minor Ballade to four well-differentiated Etudes and two wonderfully played Mazurkas.

Mr. Rubinstein made everything "heroic" by the extraordinary beauty that he found in the music. A case in point was his playing of the B Minor Sonata, a work that has great contrasts of mood.

Never has the brilliant first movement seemed more intensely dynamic nor the Scherzo more sparkling, nor the attenuated line of the Largo more perfectly projected.

Perhaps the fact that Mr. Rubinstein intentionally celebrated his native Poland had something to do with the fire and brilliance of his performance; whatever the case may be we would like to hear this concert right over again.

His audience evidently felt the same way, for the ovation he received after the A Flat Polonaise at the close of the program brought him back repeatedly for encores.

S. G.