RUBINSTEIN IN CONCERT HERE

Great Pianist Enthralls Capacity Audience

BY WARREN STOREY SMITH

Artur Rubinstein, one of the greatest of living pianists, was heard in recital yesterday afternoon at Symphony Hall. It was remarkable that, outside the semi-privacy of a Statler Musicale, Mr. Rubinstein had not previously appeared here as recitalist and hardly less remarkable that he should have been received by a capacity audience. For Boston is sometimes a little slow in catching on where virtuosi are concerned.

To be sure, Mr. Rubinstein did play with the Symphony Orchestra in the spring of 1939, and he then gave the impression of trying to make of Brahms' Second Concerto a more dynamic piece than it really is. Such was not always the case yesterday. Mr. Rubinstein played Beethoven's "Appassionata" Sonata in rather mellow fashion, except of course, in the finale where he very properly cut loose. And while his performance of Chopin's A-flat major Polonaise had power and brilliance, it had also elegance and restraint.

Mr. Rubinstein was mellow again, and appropriately so, in three pieces of Brahms; two Intermezzi and the B minor Rhapsody. If he brought Chopin's A-flat major Ballade to a stirring close, he played the balance of the piece with poetry and warmth, after which he presented most sympathetically a Mazurka and the F-sharp major Nocturne. Here and elsewhere his tone was often richly beautiful and delightfully varied as well.

Following the intermission, Mr. Rubinstein devoted himself to contemporary music, beginning this group with Poulenc's three whimsical "movements perpetuels," of which only the first is at all familiar. The remaining numbers are oftener heard from orchestras, though Ravel's "The Tomb of Couperin," from which came yesterday's charming Forlane, was originally written for piano. That is not the case, however with the "Dance of the Miller's Wife," in Falla's "The Three-Cornered Hat" and the three numbers from Stravinsky's "Petrouchka," as transformed into a so-called Sonata by the composer and dedicated to Mr. Rubinstein. A formidable composition as it stands, the latter seemed to have been tricked out even more by Mr. Rubinstein, who made of it yesterday a prodigious tour de force. By the time he got through the original ballet was left somewhat in the lurch but the audience was brought to a high pitch of excitement. In sum, this was a most entertaining and rewarding concert, one of the brightest spots of the current season. May we hear Mr. Rubinstein again, and speedily.

BELLE BAKER TO SING

Belle Baker, renowned songstress, will supplement the regular programme of entertainment scheduled for the second joint donors' luncheon of the Jewish Tuberculosis Sanitorium of New England in the Copley-Plaza Hotel, Monday, March 16, according to an announcement by Mrs. George Friedman of Brookline, chairman.