

### The Scharwenka Concert.

The arrival among us of a musician of the rank of Naver Scharwenka is an event of great interest and importance, and his piano concert in Music hall last Tuesday attracted a large audience. He played compositions by Chopin, Mendelssohn, Schubert, Schumann and Liszt, as well as some by himself. The most distinctive feature of his playing is its refinement and elegance. He makes no exhibition of seeming impossibilities; he does not attempt to imitate a full orchestra; he uses no merely sensational effects. On the contrary, he devotes himself to expressing the music in a straightforward, thoroughly artistic way. He is a master of the piano, and plays the most difficult music with repose and apparent ease; but it is as a musician and an artist, even more than as a mere pianist, that he excels. His own compositions roused especial

interest. They are romantic and expressive, without senseless display or sentimentality; they are throughout real, honest, interesting music. Perhaps the most exquisite of the group was the first, called "*Erzaehlung am Clavier*," consisting of a slow, tender beginning and end, with a lively middle part. Equally charming was a more brilliant *Valse Caprice*. After finishing this group of pieces, Mr. Scharwenka responded to the applause of the audience by playing a mazurka, from which he jumped suddenly into the familiar "Polish Dance." This latter piece, on which, no doubt, depends a large part of its author's fame in this country, is nevertheless inferior to some of the other pieces; but an authentic performance by the composer was welcome.

On the whole, Mr. Scharwenka has made the impression of possessing a true, artistic nature, and of being a wonderfully gifted composer and pianist. The portrait on the programmes does not remotely suggest the attractiveness and magnetism of his personality. If he has not the bravura of D'Albert (owing largely to the thin and unsatisfactory tone of the pianos he uses), nor the sentiment of De Pachmann, he is still a musician of the very highest rank and, perhaps, the most satisfactory pianist that has visited us for years.

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### **A Musical Treat.**

Xaver Scharwenka, the famous pianist and eminent composer, will give a series of recitals in Bumstead hall, Boston, on Thursday afternoons, February 9, 16 and 23, at 2.30 o'clock. The first recital will be devoted to Chopin and Scharwenka's compositions. This artist is especially noted for his charming renditions of romantic music. The course tickets at \$3.00 can be had at Music hall, Boston, of John Savine, manager.

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quisitely sympathetic expression. There is no need to speak of the pieces separately, for they were all from Chopin's very best, and all interpreted to perfection. One would not have changed a single note of the mazurkas, the nocturne (F sharp major) or the Ballade. The player's exquisite and delicate touch, together with his poetic feeling, evidently entranced the audience. As a composer Herr Scharwenka appears in a very favorable light. The five compositions that he played at this concert, including one that he added as an encore, were brilliant without being showy, expressive without being sentimental. The Novellette, op. 22,

and the Valse Caprice, op. 31, were particularly charming; the whole concert, Chopin and Scharwenka, was full of the fiery genius of Polish music. Next Thursday afternoon this most interesting and artistic pianist will present a programme of Schumann and Mendelssohn; on the following Thursday, of Liszt. A word may be added as to the pleasure of listening to a piano concert in a small hall. In the vastness of Music hall, where Paderewski has to play, some of the effect is inevitably lost.

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