By HERBERT GARON

Mrs. Edna W. Saunders offered from her tray of bon-bons José Iturbi in a concert consisting entirely of Chopin to ring up the curtain on her 43rd season Monday night in the Music Hall.

The program found Mr. Iturbi at the height of his powers, which is to say that he brought us Chopin as only a very few artists of our time (or any time) could play him. The evening was resplendent with supple, singing tones in which legato passages spun out smoothly. In his sweeping style, there is always present the calm, firm touch of the master musician who caresses the keys knowingly, lovingly, and exactly.

IT WAS BUT natural that an artist of romantic caliber such as Iturbi should find an especial affinity for the music of Chopin. The group of compositions was a masterpiece of liquid sound and grace of phrasing. His delicately nuanced tone was never more evident than in the Ballade in G minor, with its “sehnsuch” and haunting melancholy. It was followed by the Ballade in A-flat which he played poetically and with gleaming display.

In the fine B minor Sonata Mr. Iturbi seemed to have much to say, musically speaking. The turbulent introduction, followed by the exquisitely modulated episodes; the fanciful scherzo and the elegiac largo—all were bracketed into a performance remarkable for its serenity and instinctive perfection.

IN THE SWEEPING finale—which is purely a bravura movement—he seemed to sacrifice much of its innate grandeur to