

Pianist: Etsko Tazaki

By THEODORE W. LIBBEY Jr.

DISPLAYING considerable versatility as well as virtuosity, the pianist Etsko Tazaki appeared at the Metropolitan Museum Saturday night as soloist, accompanist and ensemble pianist, in a program devoted to works of Bartok and Schubert.

Miss Tazaki opened her program with Bartok's "Out of Doors" suite. While the piece's idiom has lost some of its fascination — the monotony of its musical ideas now comes through without the shock value — Miss Tazaki nevertheless gave it an impressive performance, handling with ease the driving ostinati and barbaric accents it demands.

In Schubert's expansive Sonata in B flat (Op. posth.), the pianist's playing took on a different cast. Her performance, far more Apollonian than one might have expected, from the Dionysiac relish with which she attacked the Bartok, seemed aimed more at the listener's esthetics than his emotions. Within this conceit Miss Tazaki played very well, achieving remarkable clarity of voicing and articulation. At times, though, one wished for more intensity: the Andante, which offers an extraordinary glimpse over the horizon of Romanticism, remained a vision in Miss Tazaki's account, rather than a visitation. . . .

