

Radu Lupu Recital at Cardiff

Delightful delicacy

By IFAN PAYNE

HAYDN'S piano music is too infrequently heard in concert so it was a pleasure to listen to Radu Lupu's recital in St David's Hall last night which contained three substantial works by the composer.

Though very much in juxtaposition to the Michael Bilson school of contemporary authenticity, Lupu's stately delicacy in the *F Minor Variations*, relaxed delight in the *G Major Sonata* and dappled emotional shades in the *C Minor Sonata* charmed the ear with the expressive simplicity of his pianism.

Following that all-Haydn first half the second half was devoted to the music of Schubert, of

which Lupu is rightly a noted exponent.

So his playing of what for many others are musical trifles fit only for enchores- the *Impromptus numbers one and three Opus 142* — displayed them as being of musical and intellectual significance as well as of great tonal beauty.

The *Wanderer Fantasy* is anything but a trifle and Lupu's performance was powerful yet never austere or intimidating; strong sinewed but with a pearl-like translucence which made for a deeply satisfying experience.