

Scenes Attending the Outbreak of Hostilities Abroad As Viewed by an American Pianist

How Olga Samaroff and Her Husband, Leopold Stokowski, Conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Escaped from Their Home in Munich During the Stirring Incidents of Last Month—Tells of Ossip Gabrilowitsch's Arrest—Perils of Travel

By Olga Samaroff-Stokowski

ON July 24 Mme. Cahier and I gave a concert in Reichenhall, which is very near the Austrian frontier. The afternoon of the 24th when we arrived in Reichenhall we heard great cheering in the cafés and gardens; all the bands in the place seemed to be playing the Austrian national hymn. We saw three men from the Philadelphia Orchestra playing in the Kurorchester there. On the morning of July 25 notices were posted up all over Reichenhall that Austria had sent an ultimatum to Servia, and if by six o'clock Servia did not give a satisfactory answer war would be declared. As a sign the people of Reichenhall were told that if they heard six cannon shots from the fortress of Salzburg, which is nearby, they would know war had been declared. After our concert we went back to Munich, where we consulted with the manager of the concerts we had booked in Franzensbad, Marienbad and Carlsbad. The manager left for Franzensbad on July 26 with the understanding that if he found conditions unfavorable to the concerts he would telegraph us not to come. As we heard nothing from him, however, we left Munich on July 27 at noon. Already at the Munich station we found ourselves in a large crowd of Austrian reserves, who were leaving to join their regiments. At the Austrian frontier we were surrounded with every evidence of Austria's hasty mobilization. We found that the manager had been unable to get word through to us. As we had, however, all assembled there—that is, Mme. Cahier and her accompanist, my husband and I—and as there was a large advance sale for the concert, the manager decided to try to give the concert in spite of everything. All that night the forage wagons were going through the streets of Franzensbad with armed escort, and we ourselves saw five hundred recruits sleeping in an open field in the pouring rain. When we tried the next morning to find the Steinway grand which had been sent for me from Prague, we discovered it under a pile of military luggage in a corner of the station, and were told that there were neither men nor horses to move it to the concert hall. An hour later we learned that several hundred soldiers were quartered in our very concert hall, and that if we wished to leave for Germany at all we would have to get out within half an hour. After hastily packing we succeeded in catching the train. At every station there were enormous crowds of recruits speaking the Bohemian, Hungarian and Bosnian languages, the whole impression being one of enormous excitement.

When we arrived in Munich on July 28 we found the population in a state of feverish excitement; bulletins all over town surrounded by crowds, and that night we witnessed a great demonstration before the Austrian legation when a crowd of many thousands collected and sang the Austrian national anthem.

On Friday rumors that Russia was mobilizing and had acted in bad faith

with Germany, by making overtures of peace and yet mobilizing at the same time, were current in the city, and excitement became more and more intense until Saturday evening at six o'clock



Olga Samaroff-Stokowski, the American Pianist, Who Escaped from the War Zone with Her Husband

when the order for German mobilization, which every one knew meant war, was given out.

First Day of the Mobilization

On August 2, the first day of mobilization, the streets were filled with soldiers and officers in the unfamiliar gray uniform supplanting the gorgeous blue and red uniform of peace times. Food prices began to go up, shopkeepers would no longer take paper money, banks were stormed, although in a very orderly way. Everywhere one met crowds of anxious Americans, who could neither get information nor money. Every hour new telegrams were posted up, awaited by eager, restless crowds. As to my personal acquaintances among Americans, I had infinite difficulty in making them realize the situation at all, but as I have so many relatives in the German army and had heard all my life so much about this war which everybody in Germany has been expecting, I was more or less prepared for everything which was to come. Personally I was intensely worried owing to the fact that my husband was an English subject, although he has no English blood.

It was immensely impressive to see how the German government managed the situation. The rise in food prices and the impossibility of paying with paper money only lasted two days. Orders were given that any shopkeeper who refused to take paper money would have his place of business closed by the police. This measure proved immediately effective.

As I felt sure that our departure from Munich would become a necessity in a

short time I fortunately made preparations in advance, which saved us from the necessity of leaving anything in confusion, as our Russian, English and French friends eventually had to do. The panic regarding spies was the one surprising feature of this period. The Germans, who were otherwise so calm and impressively quiet with regard to the whole situation, completely lost their heads with regard to the spy question. I myself was stopped on the street and forced to open two packages which I was carrying before a military officer. As the packages contained only cumphor and cheesecloth bought for the purpose of closing my home I was released after giving my life history, but for a time it seemed as though I would have difficulty in escaping from a mob of hostile people who had collected during the examination of the packages.

It soon became unsafe to go on the street without a passport, and for English speaking people after England's declaration of war it was dangerous to go forth without an American flag. One was not allowed to write letters or telegrams in anything but the German language. Everything was controlled by the military censorship.

I received a letter from Mrs. Ossip Gabrilowitsch, the wife of the Russian pianist and the daughter of Mark Twain, telling me that her husband had been arrested, as he was a Russian subject, and that she and her child were at the Four Seasons Hotel in great trouble. Gabrilowitsch's arrest was caused by the denunciation of his butler. It fortunately did not last long owing to the intercession of high placed friends, but he was ordered to leave the country with his family immediately.

A Fearless Husband

All this time I was restlessly trying to devise ways and means of providing for our own safety, and found that no opposition was worse than that of my inconveniently fearless husband, who could not be brought to realize that he would actually be turned out of his own house. In the meantime Switzerland had declared that, owing to fear of a food famine she would not allow any more people to cross her frontier, so it seemed that Holland was the only direction open to us, and to reach it we had to go through most of the hostile German Empire, where I felt convinced an English passport would bring much danger with it.

On August 8 I obtained an interview with the president of the police in Munich and asked him to tell me frankly whether we would be furred to leave the country or not. His reply was: "My personal advice to you is to go as quickly as you can." In the meantime we had telegraphed Rotterdam and had succeeded in procuring passage on the *Ryndam*, sailing August 22, so we decided to undertake the difficult and even perilous trip across Germany. The railroad authorities would give us no information regarding the possibility of reaching Holland. My husband felt that it was his duty towards the Philadelphia

[Continued on next page]

We offer, for the season 1914-15, a most carefully selected list of artists and virtuosi, all of whom in their own particular line of art stand in the very front rank.

The list includes among others, the following:

PIANISTS

Ferruccio Busoni, third tour under our management. From October 1st, 1914, to February 10th, 1915. (Chickering Piano.)

New—Mrs. H. H. A. Beach, the Boston composer, in Orchestral Concerts and Recitals of her own works. Special engagement for 30 dates.

New—Nora Drewett, of Berlin, native of Ireland. (Steinway Piano.)

New—Vida Llewellyn, of Berlin, native of Chicago.

VIOLINISTS

New—Willy Burmester, first visit since 1898. (Steinway Piano.)

Vera Barstow, the American violinist. Second season under our management. (Knabe Piano.)

HARPIST

New—Winifred Bambrick, the young Canadian harpist.

VOICE

New—Edyth Walker, Prima Donna Soprano Hamburg Opera, Chicago Opera, one of the greatest of international singers of Old and New World fame.

Helen Stanley, the delight of her American audiences. Prima Donna Wurzburg, Chicago, Montreal Operas. Second season under our management.

New—Mario Sammarco, the distinguished baritone of the Chicago and Covent Garden Opera Companies.

New—Marcella Craft, the young California soprano who has been prima donna at the Royal Opera, Munich, for the past four years.

New—Alice Verlet, French Coloratura and Dramatic Soprano. Prima Donna Paris Grand Opera, Paris. Opéra Comique, Monte Carlo, Brussels, etc. Recitals and Concerts.

Baroness Signe von Rappe, Swedish Soprano, Prima Donna Covent Garden, Stockholm and Vienna Operas.

New—Mrs. King Clark, née Maude Oakley, of Berlin, native of Lincoln, Neb. Mezzo-Soprano, who has become famous in Europe.

New—Lucy Marsh, the favorite soprano whose Victor records are so popular.

Luella Ohrman, leading Chicago Soprano. Second season under our management.

Florence Blumenschein-Rowe, the Young Lyric Soprano.

Theodore Harrison, American Baritone, who has achieved distinction in Europe.

New—Arthur Alexander, the celebrated Paris tenor, a Californian, who sings to his own accompaniment; ranks very high.

New—Eleanor Hazzard Peacock, the brilliant American lieder singer.

Myrna Sharlow, the young American Prima Donna of the Boston Opera in Boston and Paris and member of the opera at Covent Garden, London.

George Sheffield, the American tenor, with an exceptionally pure and beautiful voice and splendid equipment for concert and oratorio.

Albert Schott, operatic tenor, who has been scoring significant successes in Europe.

CONCERT DIRECTION

M. H. HANSON
437 Fifth Avenue, New York

Regina De Sales

TEACHER OF SINGING
in Paris All Summer

Pupils prepared for Opera, Oratorio, Concert
40 Rue de Villiers (Ave. du Bois de Boulogne), PARIS

DELMA-HEIDE

30, Rue Marbeuf (Champs-Élysées), Paris

Maestro di Bel Canto Italiano

Prepares Singers for Opera and Concert in Italian, French, German and English

DESIDER JOSEF

VECSEI

HUNGARIAN PIANIST

of "Musical America"

17 Avenue Niel,

PARIS

ARTHUR HARTMANN

VIOLINIST

Studio: 43, Rue Gros, PARIS XVIe.

THERÈSE CHAIGNEAU—WALTER MORSE

RUMMEL

Piano — Harmony — Composition

69 Rue Raynouard, Paris

L. d'AUBIGNE

TEACHER OF SINGING

30, Avenue Kléber, Paris

ARTHUR ALEXANDER
14, RUE RAYNOUARD, PARIS

Martinus Sieveking
PIANIST

INSTRUCTION BY A NEW METHOD.
Pupils limited. Results guaranteed.
36, rue Théophile Gambier, Paris, XVI.