

# MUSICAL AMERICA

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## SAINT-SAËNS HERE AS FRENCH ENVOY TO THE EXPOSITION

Famous Composer Shuns Reporters During New York Stay, But "Musical America" Representative Succeeds in Interviewing Him as He Departs for San Francisco—Has Written Two Works for the Exposition, "Hail California" and a New March—Despite His Eighty Years, Composer Stands in Rain to Watch New York Naval Parade and Salute the President

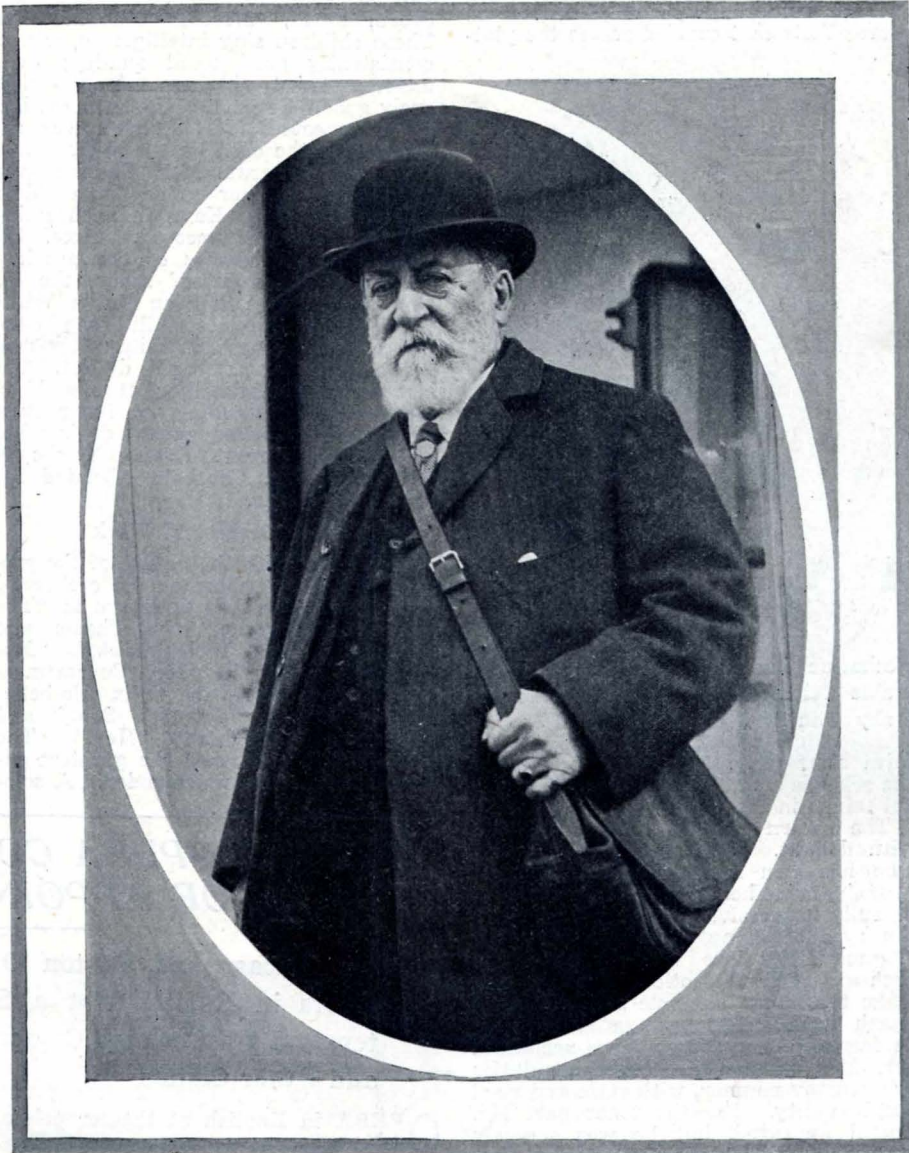
CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS arrived in New York on the *Rochambeau* on Wednesday morning of last week. The veteran composer of "Samson and Delilah" (now in his eightieth year) made a brief concert tour of this country in 1906, but his travels on that occasion did not take him as far as will the mission on which he is now bound. He will appear at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco as first delegate of the Franco-American Commission for the Development of Political, Economic, Literary and Artistic Relations, and is also to visit Los Angeles and other coast cities during his California sojourn, which will cover a period of several months.

Accompanying Saint-Saëns on his ocean trip were General Hovaleque, Inspector General of Education in France and Hugues le Roux, editor of the *Paris Matin*. At the pier the composer turned a deaf ear to the entreaties of newspaper reporters for a few words, spurned a prima donna because of her Germanic origin (the incident is treated more fully in another column) and effusively greeted Leopold Godowsky, the pianist, who was once his pupil. He declined vehemently to discuss the war, for news of the *Lusitania* outrage had further deepened the bitterness of his feelings toward all things German. Nor did the customs inspection contribute to the kindness of his sentiments for the time being. On leaving the dock he went to the Biltmore Hotel and was guest of honor that evening at a dinner given at the University Club by the Franco-American Society. In a brief after-dinner speech, the composer spoke of his appreciation of America and of his own work, diplomatically scouting all reference to the war and the French expectations of this country.

The following evening Saint-Saëns was tendered a dinner by Dr. Marafioti, of the Metropolitan Opera House, the guests including Messrs. Godowsky and Busoni, the party afterwards attending the benefit performance of "Carmen" at the Metropolitan.

### Departure for the West

Saint-Saëns left for the West at five-thirty Monday evening, having spent his last day in New York paying calls, regardless of the rain and watching the naval parade. During the full extent of his stay he denied himself to newspapermen absolutely and neither entreaties nor subterfuges could induce him to lift the ban. A representative of MUSICAL AMERICA managed, through the kindness of Dr. Marafioti, to spend a few minutes with him before the train left, after having been solemnly admonished not to divulge his own identity by word or act. A few casual questions concerning his trip quickly aroused the composer's sus-



—Photo by Bain News Service

### CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS

France's "Grand Old Man" of Music and Representative of His Country at the San Francisco Exposition. The Famous Composer of "Samson et Dalila" Reached New York on May 12 and is Due on the Coast at the End of the Present Week. The Above Photograph Was Taken on His Arrival in New York

picious, however, and he put an abrupt check to the efforts of his interrogator by inquiring sharply "why this individual was asking him so many questions."

Thus chastened in spirit, "this individual" collapsed into deferential silence while the *cher maître* became proportionately voluble. He walked briskly down the platform informing Dr. Marafioti that he was looking forward with great expectations to his California visit, inasmuch as he had never seen California before, and since various postal cards from friends in Los Angeles showed him pictures of tropical flowers and fruits in luxuriant bloom. He did not know just how long he was going to stay there, he averred; but he did know that he was going to deliver a lecture in San Francisco on the execution of ancient music. Then, turning to his meekly silent "interviewer," and suddenly changing the subject, Saint-Saëns exclaimed that he was "not a mathematician." "No, no, not in any sense," he insisted, "although the newspapers here have said I was *En voilà une idée! Un mathématicien, moi! If only I were!*"

"But an astronomer—?" feebly ventured the odious *individu*.

The composer abjured his reputed skill in this scientific direction quite as relentlessly.

### Star-Gazer, Not Astronomer

"*Pas astronome non plus! Parceque j'aime regarder les astres ne signifie pas que je suis astronome!* What if I do like to gaze at the planets? That proves

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## PRESIDENT WILSON'S DAUGHTER SINGS AT SYRACUSE FESTIVAL

Success of Margaret Woodrow Wilson a Feature of Fifteenth Annual Event of Central New York Association—Notable List of Participants Includes Ward Chorus, Chicago Orchestra, Alda, Amato, Goodson, Grace Fjorde, Anita Rio, Mrs. Gannon, Messrs. Middleton, Dostal and Steindel

(From a Staff Correspondent)

SYRACUSE, N. Y., May 12.—With the big Arena crowded, the audience numbering nearly 4,500, and with the appearance of Margaret Woodrow Wilson as a strong magnet, there was brought to a close to-night the fifteenth annual festival given here by the Central New York Musical Festival Association. In many ways this year's festival was one of the most notable ever given here.

The galaxy of artists, among them Frances Alda, Pasquale Amato, Grace Fjorde, Anita Rio, Katharine Goodson, and Arthur Middleton, insured a high standard of excellence, as far as individual performances were concerned; further, the co-operation of Frederick Stock and the splendid Chicago Symphony Orchestra was another boon. The choral offerings, by the Central New York Festival Chorus, augmented on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings by the Oswego, Rome and Auburn choruses, under the direction of Tom Ward, were appropriate, interesting and well executed. The large attendance at all five concerts, the biggest audiences assembling on Monday and Wednesday evenings, proved that in spite of the financial depression said to exist in this country, there are many thousands of music-lovers in Syracuse interested in the best in musical art. Director Tom Ward, who planned the five concerts, as well as conducted the choral performances, displayed a fine sense of program-making, the concerts being of admirable length and their arrangement happy.

### Lieutenant-Governor at Festival

An account of Mme. Alda's and Mr. Amato's successful appearances at the opening concert on Monday evening, May 10, was given in last week's issue of MUSICAL AMERICA. That evening President Fred R. Peck entertained in the Administration Box, among others, Lieutenant-Governor Schoeneck and his wife, Congressman and Mrs. Walter W. Magee, Chancellor and Mrs. James Day, and Mayor Louis Will and his wife.

Katharine Goodson and Grace Fjorde were the soloists of Tuesday afternoon's concert. For this occasion a real symphony concert was arranged. Mr. Stock's conducting of Dvorak's "Otello" Overture, the César Franck Symphony, and Strauss's "Don Juan" touched a high point of excellence. His reading of the Franck, one that was emotionally vitalized, proved him an indisputable master and the audience showered its approval on him after it.

Miss Goodson arrived in Syracuse on Monday evening, accompanied by her manager, Mrs. Antonia Sawyer. The celebrated English pianist chose the Tschaiakowsky Concerto in B Flat Minor, a work which she enjoys playing. She gave one of the greatest performances of it that the present writer has ever

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### Hertz May Produce German Opera in New York, Says Rumor

A rumor was circulated in New York last week to the effect that Alfred Hertz, who retired this Spring as conductor of German opera at the Metropolitan Opera House, might become an impresario and produce German opera at another theater in New York next season. It was said that Mr. Hertz would be assured of financial support in the enterprise, of which he would become artistic director. Mr. Hertz is at present rehearsing the Parker opera, "Fairyländ," in Los Angeles.

### Dangers of Travel Keep Sir Charles V. Stanford Away from America

In consequence of the dangers attending trans-Atlantic travel, Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, the distinguished Irish composer, will not come to this country for the June festival of the Litchfield County Choral Union at Norfolk, Conn., at which his new Piano Concerto in C Minor, as well as others of his works, were to have been given under his leadership.

### Caruso Arrives in Buenos Ayres

A cable message of May 14 from Buenos Ayres to New York announces the arrival in that city on that date of Enrico Caruso, who is to sing at the Colon Theater. Caruso's contract is said to call for ten appearances at \$7,000 each. A large gathering of Italian residents of Buenos Ayres met Mr. Caruso as he arrived in the harbor.