

Tschaikowsky's Personality as Von Sternberg Encountered It

CONSTANTIN VON STERNBERG, the Philadelphia pianist, composer and pedagogue, was brought into relation with many of Russia's most eminent composers during his early career in his native land.

"Many of them I knew," he told Olin Downes of the Boston Post recently. "I gave concerts in Russia, including the city of St. Petersburg—my native town—which I cannot accustom myself to calling 'Petrograd'—I gave concerts there in '79 with Desire Artot, the only woman Tschaikowsky ever loved, who had by that time married another man. What musicians! I shall never forget Rimsky-Korsakoff, whose intellect and personality made a very deep impression on me, and Tschaikowsky, Glazounoff, Liadoff—what a group it was, at that time. Rimsky-Korsakoff, with his erect stature, his long beard, his frank and piercing eyes, always reminded me of that picture of the Duke Alva, which you have probably seen, riding at the head of his soldiers during the Spanish invasion of Flanders.

"But of them all the most charming—I can really use no other word—the most charming, as a personality, was Tschaikowsky. You could not resist him, and this in spite of the fact that he was so extremely sensitive and so shy. He was world shy. He used to play the piano in public—horribly! With a hard tone, in an aggressive manner, and this because of the fact that he feared to be considered sentimental. In private he had one of the most beautiful piano touches that I have ever known. The lovable side of the man, his most delicate sensibility, his artistic perception and his sympathetic individuality came from under his fingers in a way that no one could forget who heard him play to intimate friends.

"I remember well my first meeting with him. He was standing off in one corner of the room when I entered and remained there, dextral, embarrassed for some moments, and then suddenly, with a start, realized his duties as a

host, came toward me rather nervously and asked me to sit down. But in a few minutes the ice was broken. Tschaikowsky either gave you his whole confidence or none, and it was my good fortune in a few minutes to be talking to him as though I had known him all my life.

"He certainly never gave me the impression of being misanthropic or pessimistic. I have always felt that his pessimism was racial, and not a matter of character. You know the Slavic soul has a certain corner which is always a little dark and sad. It takes a certain joy in sadness, 'charme de tristesse.'

"As for the story of Tschaikowsky's suicide, the facts are these: Tschaikow-

sky was invited to a banquet at the Hotel d'Angleterre. There had been cholera in St. Petersburg. On a table was a pitcher of water. Tschaikowsky started to drink it. A friend stopped him. The water might not be boiled. No one knew how long it had stood there. Tschaikowsky, in a spirit of bravado, took not one, but two glasses. 'You shall see,' he said, 'that nothing will happen.' Before the end of the banquet he was seized with violent cramps. By good fortune there was a physician present—not his own, but a competent man. He was immediately taken upstairs, and given hot applications. For some superstitious reason he would not take a hot bath. The next morning he was much better, so much so that the doctors felt certain he would recover. But one of them said to him, 'Won't you make things doubly sure by taking a hot bath?' To this Tschaikowsky finally assented. He was put into the bath, and God only knows how it happened—while they were talking by his side he gave up the ghost!"

CHARLOTTE LUND'S RECITAL

Singer Appears in Benefit for Peekskill Infants

Charlotte Lund gave a splendid recital at the Drum Hill School at Peekskill, N. Y., on Oct. 13 for the benefit of the Peekskill Infant Welfare Station and District Nursing Association. Miss Lund was in notably fine voice and gave a program of Russian, French, German, Scandinavian and English songs, interpreting the moods of the various composers faithfully. In her Russian group she brought out the pathos of Borodine's "A Dissonance" touchingly. There was charm in her singing of Massenet's "Ah! si les Fleurs" and to the Scandinavian songs by Grieg, Kjerulf, Sinding and Lie she imparted an intimate interpretation that was admirable.

Her American songs were H. T. Burleigh's lovely "Deep River" and Horsman's "Bird of the Wilderness," her

English pieces Cyril Scott's Lullaby and Liza Lehmann's "I Sent My Soul" from the "Persian Garden." Harry Kaufman played her accompaniments brilliantly.

Victor Kuzdö Will Return to Teaching After Autumn Vacation

Victor Kuzdö, the New York violinist and teacher, has been spending the months of September and October in the country—without his violin. After a hard winter's work, plus his summer session, at which he gave instruction to many students from all parts of the country, he was so fatigued that he decided to take a much needed rest and get himself into condition for his winter's labors. In the country he has been living out of doors, taking much physical exercise, walking from six to ten miles a day. This and complete relaxation have built him up splendidly and when he returns to New York to resume his teaching on Nov. 1 he will be entirely recuperated.

UNIONTOWN FREE CONCERTS

Orchestra Promotes Community Interest in Pennsylvania Town

UNIONTOWN, PA., Oct. 16.—The Uniontown Symphony Orchestra, organized with a view of providing free concerts for the city and to develop community spirit and interest, is rehearsing for a concert to be given in the high school auditorium. There are about twenty-five members in the orchestra, under the direction of E. K. Heyser, who succeeded A. J. Dann, whose work assumed such proportions that he could not give the orchestra the attention that it required.

Last year several free concerts were given and the orchestra won praise for its splendid efforts in furthering community interest in music.

Lydia Ferguson, a pupil of Mme. Yvette Guilbert, sang eighteenth century and peasant songs in costume at the Neighborhood Playhouse on Friday night of last week.

Pearl Cleveland Wilson gave a lecture on "Die Walküre" at Public School No. 157, New York, on Friday evening of last week.



Lillian HEYWARD

Lyric Soprano



Tributes from daily paper critics following Miss Heyward's success on Chautauqua Tour just completed:

Miss Lillian Heyward, soprano, made one of the individual hits of the week. Not alone did she charm with her voice and its bird-like notes, but her personality sparkled and she made an ideal entertainer.

LANCASTER (N. H.) DAILY.

Miss Lillian Heyward, lyric soprano soloist, captured the hearts of the audience and was encored again and again.

HARDWICK (VT.) DAILY CALEDONIAN.

The instrumental program was pleasantly varied by Miss Heyward, whose wonderful voice captivated her hearers.

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SAMUEL GARDNER

VIOLINIST

NEW YORK CRITICS UNITE IN PRAISE

His New York Recital at Aeolian Hall on Oct. 11th A TRIUMPH

THE TIMES:

"His performance yesterday was admirable in many ways and affirmed his place as a serious and accomplished artist, a master of the technique of his instrument as well as of the higher attributes of a ripe and finished style. His is unquestionably a deeply musical intelligence, and, while he is not lacking in ardor and imagination, he has arrived at a maturity in which the fire of Spring is checked from ravaging the beauty and symmetry of what he plays, and in which repose and power are manifested. His tone is round and full."

THE SUN:

"He is one of the most promising of the younger violinists who have recently come before this public. His playing is distinguished by great smoothness and finish in legato passages and by a technical facility equal to the demands of rapid and complicated passages."

"Other notable traits are its elegance of style and its clearly marked rhythm. Mr. Gardner bids fair to take a leading position among violinists."

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