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PITTSBURGH BARS KUNWALD CONCERT AND GERMAN MUSIC

Officials Force Cancelling of Cincinnati Symphony Engagement at Last Hour—Objected to Austrian Leader and the Program—Conductor Seeks to Resign but Directors Refuse to Consider His Action—Mrs. Charles P. Taft, President of Association, Defends His Record—Manager Kline Roberts Declares Smoky City Authorities Encourage "Blind and Indiscriminate Commune Against Artists"—McCormack and Eddy Brown Score in Recitals

CINCINNATI, Nov. 23.—A sensation was caused in local musical circles Thursday, when it became known that the city authorities of Pittsburgh had refused permission to allow the giving of a concert by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra in that city in case the program contained any German music and the orchestra was led by Dr. Ernst Kunwald. As this refusal came at such a late date it was impossible for the management of the orchestra to make arrangements for another conductor, and consequently the concert had to be cancelled in spite of the fact that there had been a considerable advance sale, it is stated.

In connection with this news from Pittsburgh, Mrs. Charles P. Taft, president of the Orchestra Association, gave out for publication the following statement, which greatly added to the sensation:

"For some time I have had in my hands Dr. Kunwald's resignation as director of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, on the ground that he did not wish his personality to be in any way detrimental to the interests of the orchestra. I have been unwilling to make it public, still less to accept it, being convinced that Cincinnati's musical interests could scarcely receive a severer blow than to lose the services of Dr. Kunwald. His musical genius and his unswerving loyalty to the city during the five years he has been with us have made our orchestra one of the best in the country. Its decline from its present high standing would affect injuriously every educational interest in the city, both public and private.

"Dr. Kunwald has always considered himself the conductor of an American orchestra, and has voluntarily fulfilled every requirement belonging to that position.

"On account of the recent attitude of some of the Pittsburgh authorities I feel that in justice to Dr. Kunwald the public should understand his position.

"The matter will be given careful consideration by the board of directors of the association."

The Pittsburgh concert was to have been given Thursday evening, and the Pittsburgh authorities placed a ban upon it Wednesday afternoon at five o'clock, according to the following statement made by Kline L. Roberts, manager of the orchestra:

"The prohibition of our concert in Pittsburgh by city officials at this late hour places all of us in an unnecessarily difficult position. The entire experience has been amazing to me. When Mrs. Thompson, the local manager, applied for and secured her license last Friday, not a



MAY PETERSON

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Gifted American Lyric Soprano, Scheduled to Make Her Début at the Metropolitan Opera House as "Micaela" in "Carmen" on Thursday Afternoon. Formerly Sang at the Opéra Comique in Paris. (See Page 5)

word of objection was raised, and when here last week, I was assured that the permit, bearing Mr. Hubbard's signature, made it safe to figure definitely on our original plans.

"I first heard of possible objection last night and took the first train for Pittsburgh. At 2 o'clock this afternoon I met Messrs. Hubbard, O'Brien and Livingston in the director's office, and I believe they were all convinced that the charges made that Dr. Kunwald was a reservist in the Austrian army, that he was guilty of sending money to Austria, etc., were plain, unvarnished nonsense.

"At any rate, at the close of the conference, Mr. Hubbard informed me that we could give the concert with Dr. Kunwald conducting, provided no German music was played. It was explained that this concession was granted because of my statement that it was impossible to place a substitute in Dr. Kunwald's place at such a late hour.

"I left Mr. Hubbard's office about 2:45 o'clock, and at 5 o'clock received the following letter from him:

"'Since talking with you this after-

noon, the mayor and other city officials, together with myself, have issued a statement, as per enclosed copy, in which you will note that Dr. Kunwald is not to appear as the conductor of the orchestra.'

"Unfortunately, Mrs. Thompson is confined to her bed and has not been in a position to take an active part in the developments. She has asked me, however, to arrange, if possible, a later date for the orchestra's appearance here. I understand about 1700 tickets have been disposed of."

Directors Decline Resignation

Friday afternoon the board of directors of the Symphony Association held a meeting, at which the recent happenings were thoroughly discussed. The following statement was given out after the meeting:

"At the meeting of the board of directors of the Symphony Association held this morning, it was unanimously decided not to consider Dr. Kunwald's resignation."

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KREISLER, GOADED BY ATTACKS, GIVES UP ALL CONCERTS

Austrian Violinist Requests Release from Contracts—Decision Means Sacrifice of \$85,000—Will Fulfill Concerts Promised for Charity—Issues Explanatory Statement in Which He Affirms His Deep Gratitude to America—Kreisler as Man, Musician and Soldier

AROUSSED by attacks growing out of his Austrian connections, Fritz Kreisler, the Austrian violinist, announced last Sunday his decision to forego his concert work for the period of the war and asked for a general release from future contracts and obligations he had made to play in America. Kreisler had fifty-five American concert engagements, the cancellation of which will entail a loss of \$85,000. He will fulfill all of his contracts from which releases cannot be obtained and will also fill every engagement for which he has pledged his services free for charity.

It will be remembered that the recent protests against Kreisler's appearance before American audiences resulted in the canceling of engagements by managers in Pittsburgh, Newcastle and Morgantown, Pa., and Youngstown, Ohio. The famous violinist had frankly told his personal friends here that under present conditions an artist belonging to a nation allied with this country's enemy in the war could not fairly and with self-respect continue to accept America's money. His statement told his decision as follows:

Kreisler's Statement

"Bitter attacks have been made upon me as an Austrian and because at the outbreak of the war I fought as an officer in the Austrian army at the Russian front. I have also been criticized for fulfilling engagements under contracts made long ago. I, therefore, am asking all concerned to release me from my obligations under existing contracts. My promise will be kept to play, without compensation, for those charities to which I have already pledged my support. I shall always remain deeply sensible of my debt of gratitude to this country for past kindnesses and appreciation of my art."

Three times last week Kreisler played in New York, the last of these to a wildly enthusiastic gathering Saturday afternoon at Carnegie Hall, just three years to a day since he had returned to America after being wounded in the thigh by a Cossack spear. The same change of sentiment that ended German opera at the Metropolitan this fall affected the concert artists also. Mr. Kreisler found a woman's club had cancelled his concert at Sewickley, Pa., on Nov. 3.

Since then, at Pittsburgh and Williamsport, Pa., as well as at Youngstown, Ohio, and Morgantown, W. Va., other concerts by him have been barred, officially so in one instance, at Pittsburgh, by Charles S. Hubbard, the Director of Public Safety. He filled engagements at Baltimore and at Washington, where he was heard by many of the Diplomatic Corps, and also at Hartford, where the Mayor in person ordered the concert to go on. Last week at Fall River he received as part of his fee ten \$100 Liberty bonds.

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