

## Marked Musical Activity in Italy, Reports Ugo Ara, Back on Furlough

Former Violinist of Flonzaley Quartet, Who Is Serving in Italy's Army, Pictures Conditions in War-Riven Europe—Several New Names to Be Found Among Italian Composers—Hear Works by Leading Americans—The Food Situation—Indomitable Paris—Fine Work of Our Y.M.C.A.

UGO ARA, former viola of the Flonzaley Quartet, returned last week from Europe to remain in America till some time during the coming fall. Mr. Ara is in the Italian Army and was given this period of furlough following about fourteen months of service. A capable linguist (he speaks four languages fluently), he did invaluable work as an interpreter. His ambition had been to be on the firing line, but he was not deemed physically fit for such purposes. It was only at the urgent solicitation of the late E. J. de Coppet that he had refrained from enlisting in one of the Allied armies in 1914, but last year he was finally able to gratify his patriotic desires.

He has not yet formed plans for the immediate future, most of his American friends being at the moment away from town. Besides, he is still too much occupied adjusting himself to the "easy" conditions of American life to map out future projects. In a few weeks he may have accustomed himself to the sight of white bread and the various common-places of the dining table sufficiently to think of other things, but for the moment he is not yet acclimated to the circumstances of a comparatively peaceful environment.

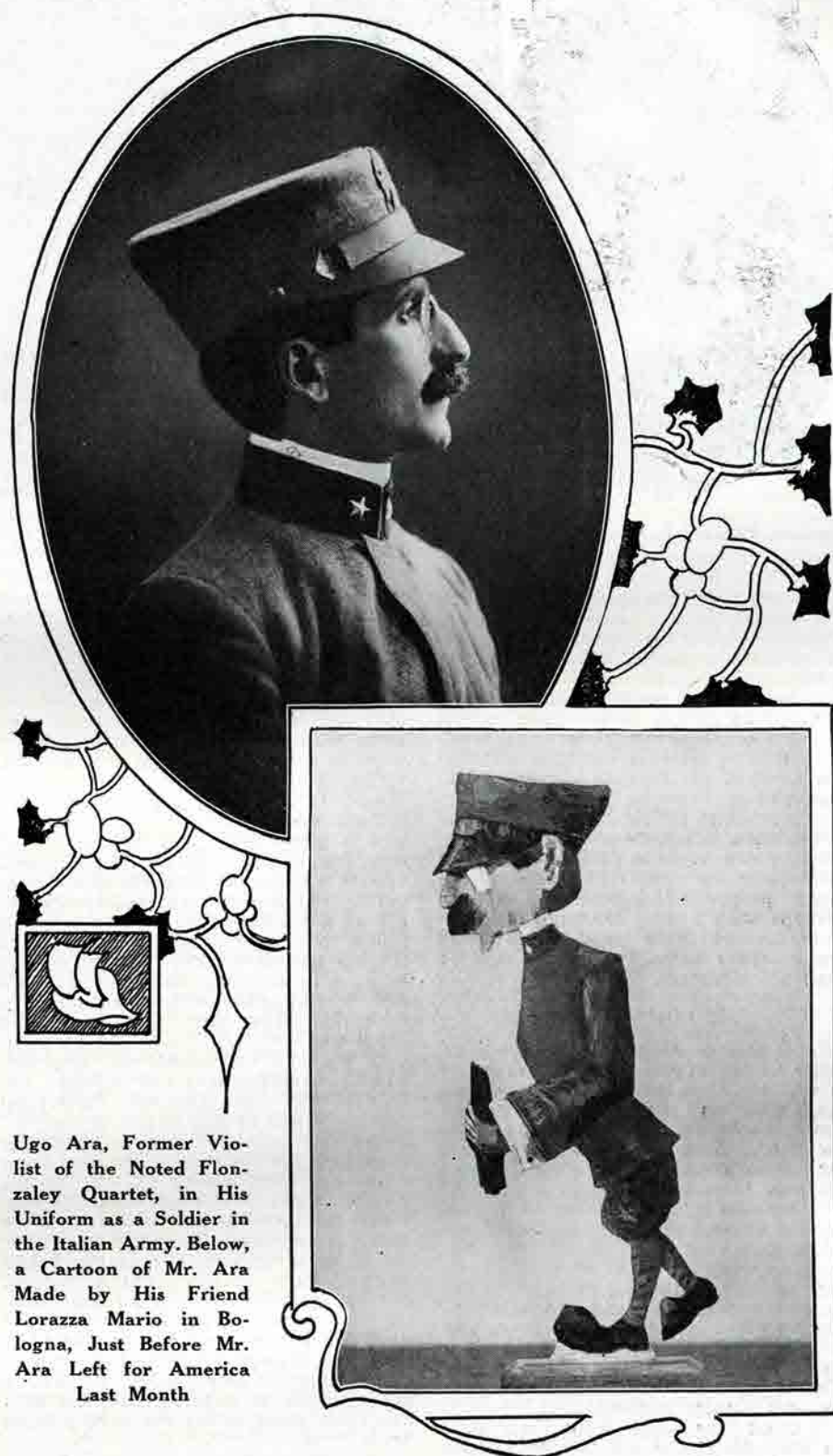
"People who have not witnessed them can form no picture of conditions abroad," he relates. "Prices may be high here and certain retrenchments necessary, but at least there is plenty. The day I landed I lunched with Mr. Charlton, and when I saw white bread on the table I refused to believe it was real. One becomes almost childishly naïve after a period of such deprivations as are encountered in Europe now. In this case they couldn't bring me enough bread and butter to satisfy me. The sight of sugar, of eggs, of fruits in the lunch-rooms and the stores becomes a kind of never-ending wonder. And at one Italian restaurant to which I went a day or two ago they gave me a portion of spaghetti that would have been a five days' ration in Italy.

### Conditions in Italy and France

"Indeed, conditions in Italy in so far as concerns food and coal are very bad. There is a great lack of the necessities of life. It is all but impossible to get hot water, and many restaurants in Rome advertise the hour at which one can have one's coffee served fairly hot. A really hot meal one cannot get. There is little or no spaghetti, and while one can get biscuits one cannot get bread. Prices are fearfully high. It is all hard enough on the rich. How the poor manage to exist is a miracle.

"France is far better off than my country as regards food. If you have the money there you are pretty sure to be able to get almost anything you want—except sugar. Paris, of course, is wonderful. The spirit of the people is something not to be described. They know how to look for the brighter side of even the most tragic happenings. When the *alerte* is sounded on the occasion of air raids they go to their cellars and talk, read, write or play until the danger is past, giving it almost the quiet charm and dignity of a social function.

"Music has not been neglected in Italy and there has been much activity outside of opera. Splendid concerts are given in Rome under the very gifted conductor, Molinari, at which the programs are given over to works by Italian and Slavic composers. Toscanini gave a notable series in Milan. A number of new names are to be found among Ital-



Ugo Ara, Former Violinist of the Noted Flonzaley Quartet, in His Uniform as a Soldier in the Italian Army. Below, a Cartoon of Mr. Ara Made by His Friend Lorazza Mario in Bologna, Just Before Mr. Ara Left for America Last Month

ian composers of symphonic and chamber music—such names as Respighi and Tommasini, for instance. They will shortly be made known to Americans. On the other hand, there is the plan of familiarizing Italians with American music. That has resulted in bringing them compositions by such men as Loefler, Carpenter, Chadwick. There is going to be much more interchange of this kind.

"The disaster of Caporetto last fall had an unhappy effect on many musical schemes, among them one by Bonci in Bologna. The tenor has refused all offers to leave the country while his son is fighting. He had planned an operatic season, but this had to be canceled as nobody could think of going to operas

or theaters. Later he organized some sacred concerts. These had a tremendous success. Rossini's "Stabat Mater," among other things, was given, and also works by Perosi, which are very much in favor now, especially in Rome.

### America: the Allies' Hope

At present the hope of all the Allied countries lies in America, the thought of whose freshness and power gives strength to all. But it is not only the fighting power of America that has meant so much. The work of the Y. M. C. A. in providing for the entertainment and welfare of troops, who would otherwise become demoralized through the monotony of their existence, is something that can never sufficiently be praised."

## CALIFORNIA TEACHERS FEATURE ALLIED COMPOSERS AT CONVENTION

Annual Session of Pedagogues Opens in Los Angeles—Noted Artists Appear in Concerts

LOS ANGELES, CAL., July 10.—The California Music Teachers' Association opened their annual convention in the cozy auditorium of the Gamut Club yesterday. Some time ago there was discussed the idea of abandoning the conventions of the association during the

war period, but it was considered that music having become so much of a wartime psychological necessity it was proper to continue musical conventions as well as music.

After the singing of "America," addresses of welcome were given by Abbie

Norton Jamison, president of the Los Angeles Music Teachers' Association and vice-president of the National Federation of Music Clubs, and by L. E. Behymer, president of the Gamut Club, whose guest the association is to be at dinner to-night.

The keynote of Mrs. Jamison's address was loyalty and support to the Government, through all possible musical assistance at this time and through financial contributions. Mrs. Jamison said that the music of the present convention would be of broad scope, but that songs of one European nation would not appear, modern Germans and the German language having been barred by unanimous consent of the management.

"We are pro-Americans from the G clef to the whole rest in the last measure," said the speaker. She especially urged the members of the association to be loyal to the composers of their own State, a number of whom are to be heard in the present series of programs.

Representing the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Maynard McFie was heard in a welcome from the city, complimenting musicians on their loyalty and activity; and L. E. Behymer followed, representing the Gamut Club.

The response to these addresses was made by the president of the State association, Albert Conant of San Diego, formerly organist of the leading Christian Science Church of Boston.

Following the oratorical features came a program of original compositions of three Los Angeles composers, Fannie Dillon, Gertrude Ross and Homer Grunn. May McDonald Hope played four of Miss Dillon's works for the piano; Florine Wenzel of Sacramento offered six of Mrs. Ross's songs, with the composer at the piano. They were her "Art Songs of Japan," based on traditional themes, the original text dating back twelve hundred years.

The closing music was the playing by Homer Grunn of his "Zuñi Impressions," a suite of four movements, the titles of which are "The Flute God," "Rainbow Spring," "Mysterious Story" and "Rain Dance." This was followed by an address by Sofia Newland Neustadt of Oakland. Her subject was "California as the Mecca of the Music Student."

In this Mrs. Neustadt followed the traditional lines of California laudatory addresses in speaking of the climate and future opportunities. She dwelt also on the necessity for municipal auditoriums where artist and community music could be heard.

In the afternoon there was given at the First Congregational Church, two blocks away from the association headquarters, an organ program open to the general public. The participants were Clarence Albert Tufts of Los Angeles, Gerard Taillandier of Oakland and W. F. Skeele of Los Angeles, with vocal numbers by Virgil Moore Mattoon of Los Angeles.

The scene of the convention was shifted to Trinity Auditorium on Tuesday evening, when an elaborate program was given by artists of note, headed by Leopold Godowsky, who offered the Andante Spianato and Polonaise Opus 22 of Chopin. Mr. Godowsky is teaching twice a week on this stage and his aid given to the teachers in their artists' program was highly appreciated.

The Zoellner Quartet played four movements from Moquet, Glazounoff and Sinigaglia, Robert Alter playing the cello part in the place of Joseph Zoellner, Jr., who is in the army at Fort McDowell, San Francisco Bay.

Loisa Patterson Wessitsh was heard in half a dozen songs by Italian and American composers, with Margaret Hughes at the piano, and Gregor Cherniavski offered two violin numbers to the accompaniment of Mrs. Hennion Robinson.

Arthur Farwell came in from his community chorus with an address on that subject with which to close a most interesting program, managed by L. E. Behymer.

W. FRANCIS GATES.

### Jean Paul Kürsteiner Divides Summer Between Golf and Composing

Having completed his season of teaching, Jean Paul Kürsteiner, the New York pianist and composer, left last week with Mrs. Kürsteiner for Mount Pocono, Pa., where they will spend their vacation. Mr. Kürsteiner, always a golf enthusiast, is planning to put a great deal of time on the golf course this summer, and incidentally will complete some new piano compositions. In the fall he will publish his fourth "religious-lyric" song, "The Message."

Margaret Matzenauer, the prima donna, is spending her vacation at Taylor's on Schroon Lake in the Adirondack Mountains. Frank La Forge will again be associated with her in her concerts next season.