

Music News and Events

Nathan Milstein, Violinist, Wins Holland Audience

The stolid Dutch temperament is a national characteristic which musicians must accept. Artists coming to Holland realize that their audiences will be appreciative and cultured but that their approval will be expressed in undemonstrative fashion. This unstimulating prospect was faced by Nathan Milstein, the young Russian violinist who will play in the New Trier High school auditorium on the evening of Monday, January 15, in the second of the Artist-Recital series sponsored by the Winnetka Music club.

Makes Sensational Debut

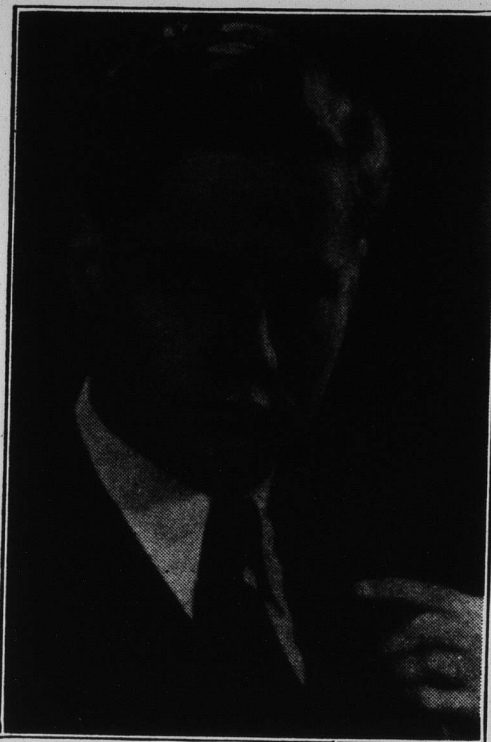
He made his Amsterdam debut some seasons ago as soloist with the famous Concertgebouw orchestra. The amazing scene which followed his performance is told in next day's story in the Telegraf by I. M. G. Arntzenius, the leading Amsterdam critic. He wrote: "A sensational debut! An unheard of thing—our stolid audience broke into a storm of applause, the public stood, the orchestra rose, and young Milstein was literally forced to respond with encores. This at a Sunday matinee of the Concertgebouw subscription concerts! . . . He played the Glazounow Concerto superbly. A strong, glowing tone combined with impeccable technique, achieved a mastery approaching perfection. Milstein's tone lives and sings and clutches at one's heart strings. It has a brilliance and intensity that takes one's breath away. To hear this tone, product of an amazing left hand and a marvelously developed right hand, is a pleasure rarely accorded us. He plays with delightful abandon, tossing off difficulties as if they did not exist."

"Watch Milstein"

De Tijd reviewer was equally excited: "The season was enlivened by an extraordinary visitor, the young Russian violinist, Nathan Milstein. It is amazing that, out of Russia, that strange land of primitive ecstasy and religious fervor, of madness and machines, from which sometimes it seems as if God had fled, that out of this incredible nation there always comes another artist, young and gifted, as a blessing for Europe, to re-awaken our love and sympathy for his blood . . . The latest ambassador of good will is a young man, slim, dark haired, with an interesting face to watch. Spontaneity wells up from his soul and enthusiasm is born of his playing. Yet everything he does is set within the bounds of a disciplined mastery and harmony.—Watch Milstein! He is destined to conquer the world. Why? Because he carries the whole world within himself. In this rare artist, still so young, man in his every variety lives, the world with its characteristic manners and emotions dwells. Here we have life in all its universality, mankind in its singing happiness and moving sorrow . . . A tumultuous ovation rewarded him."

Since that debut Nathan Milstein has satisfied the critic's hope that he visit Holland "regularly and often" and each time he returns his success, if possible, seems to be greater and his position more assured. As Milstein himself remarked: "It beats the Dutch!"

Trio Member



George Swigart of Wilmette is a member of the Swigart Trio which will give a concert with Helen Hedges, soprano, of Glencoe in the Winnetka Community House Monday evening, January 29.

Symphony Will Observe Memory of Theo. Thomas

On January 5, 1905, Theodore Thomas, founder and conductor of the Chicago Symphony orchestra died after installing his orchestra in its new home, Orchestra hall.

This week, twenty-nine years later, the orchestra, now under the baton of Thomas' protege Frederick Stock, is paying homage to the memory of its originator. Each year, during the week of January 5, the Chicago symphony and its leader give two concerts in honor of one of the greatest figures in the history of American orchestras—Theodore Thomas.

The program for the occasion consists of but three compositions—two by Beethoven and one by Strauss. The program opens with the Beethoven Overture "Coriolanus." This is followed by the Beethoven Symphony No. 9 in D minor. The concert closes with Strauss' Tone Poem, "Ein Heldenleben."

Announce Saturday's Opera Performances

Continuing its procession of internationally renowned lyric artists upon the stage of the Civic Opera house against a background of splendid scenic munificence, the Chicago Grand Opera company has entered upon the second of its season of five weeks.

The matinee performance of this coming Saturday will bring "Aida," with Hilda Burke singing the title role. Eleanor LaMance will sing Amnerus. Other popular Chicago artists in the cast are Chase Baromeo and Norman Gordon.

On Saturday night (January 6) opera lovers will hear Edith Mason in "Madame Butterfly." Mario Chamlee will sing Lieutenant Pinkerton and Claudio Frigerio will appear as Sharpless.

Harvard Music Clubs Give Winnetka Concert

At Skokie school in Winnetka on Thursday evening of last week the Instrumental clubs of Harvard university gave one of their concerts in a series of three this Christmas trip. The recital was of the greatest interest to the north shore as there are many Harvard alumni as well as undergraduates here.

The Banjo club opened with "Veritas" and "Glow Worm"; the Vocal club followed with "Schneider's Band" by Mundy and "Two Grenadiers" by Schumann; and then "Serenade" by Herbert and "A Petits Pas" by Seredy-Tocaben by the Mandolin club. W. P. Rockwell, in this group, included several clever juggling numbers as a diversion from the music. One of the popular parts of the program were the selections given by the Gold Coast orchestra, which proved to be a jazz orchestra of sophistication and marked dignity. The Vocal club concluded the program with "Fair Harvard." An alumnus, class of '28, Malcolm G. Holmes, gave several splendid violin selections including "The Meditation" from "Thais" and as an encore MacDowell's "To A Wild Goose."

The members of the respective clubs showed fine harmony and cooperation, and were all well directed by students. The group gave the same concert at Orchestra hall and also one in Cincinnati.—V.McD.

OPENS CHICAGO STUDIO

Miss Kathleen Air has opened a music studio in the Fine Arts building, room 626, for the convenience of her downtown pupils. She will be in this studio Wednesdays and Saturdays. Miss Air will resume her teaching in Winnetka, at 748 Elm street, Monday, January 8.

In Chicago Opera



Elisabeth Rethberg, Metropolitan and Ravinia favorite, is now a member of the newly organized Chicago Grand Opera company which has renewed opera at the Civic Opera house. Mme. Rethberg sang the title role of "Madame Butterfly" on Wednesday evening of last week for her Chicago debut.

Swigart Trio and Helen Hedges in Concert Jan. 29

Tickets will be on sale next Monday for the recital to be given in Matz hall of Community House, Winnetka, on Monday evening, January 29, by the Swigart Trio and Helen Hedges, soprano, under the direction of Rutheda L. Pretzel.

George Swigart, violinist, has rounded out his studies in Chicago with further studies and concertizing in Europe, as have Estelle Swigart, cellist, and Pauline Manchester, pianist of the Trio, and Miss Hedges, who is sharing the program with the Trio. The Trio and Miss Hedges have arranged a program that has unusual interest.

Trio music has been said to be dry and only to be understood by the minority of music lovers, but the Swigart Trio has promised to convince its audience that trio music is, on the contrary, entertaining, piquant, and gay. The first group by the Swigarts and Miss Manchester will be a well-liked and popular trio, and the other two groups will be composed of short numbers, some by Debussy, who has written very persuasive compositions for such a trio, and others by composers who have mastered their medium so perfectly that they can permit themselves a sophisticated musical jest, a touch of comedy. The Swigart Trio has been plunging into the preparation of the January 29 recital with zest and enthusiasm, and its members are eager to play for the audience their most attractive numbers.

Miss Hedges' appearance in a Winnetka recital will give north shore music patrons an opportunity of hearing an excellent singer, who has developed her voice to the highest perfection. She is, besides, what one critic called "a lass of flower-like loveliness," and she has great poise and charm. Her voice is clear and bird-like, exactly on pitch, and exquisitely expressive. "She has everything," wrote one critic, "voice, youth, taste, style, ease, poise, grace, and charm. The voice is a lovely bird-like one of melting purity and sweetness. It is a sensitive organ for the music to play with, to plead, persuade, tease or tear at heartstrings." She will sing two groups on January 29, composed of opera arias and concert songs.

The Swigart Trio was coached in Berlin, Germany, two years ago with Otto Steiner, head of the famous Steiner quartet. Herr Steiner, whose quartet was the first to broadcast over the radio to America, was lavish in his praise of the trio, and gave it much of his attention, teaching the members the fine art of good ensemble playing, and the no less important art of individualizing the separate instruments for accent. He predicted that the Swigart Trio would take a prominent part in the musical life of our own country. After their Berlin studies, the Swigarts and Miss Manchester studied in Paris for a short time, and then went to Budapest, where they made an extensive study of Hungarian music as played in the taverns by gypsies.

The tickets for the concert are on sale at the Community House in Winnetka, Rennacker's Drug store in Wilmette, and Hillman's Drug store in Glencoe. They are for reserved and unreserved seats.