

Jacques Gordon Thrills Audience With His Playing

By R. L. P.

Those who attended the musicale at Skokie Country club Sunday afternoon, July 22, found it was a great pleasure to hear Jacques Gordon, concertmaster of the Chicago Symphony orchestra, in more intimate surroundings than a concert hall. Most of us have been applauding him for many years, for he is one of the great ones. His program on Sunday was disappointing in only one particular—it wasn't long enough!

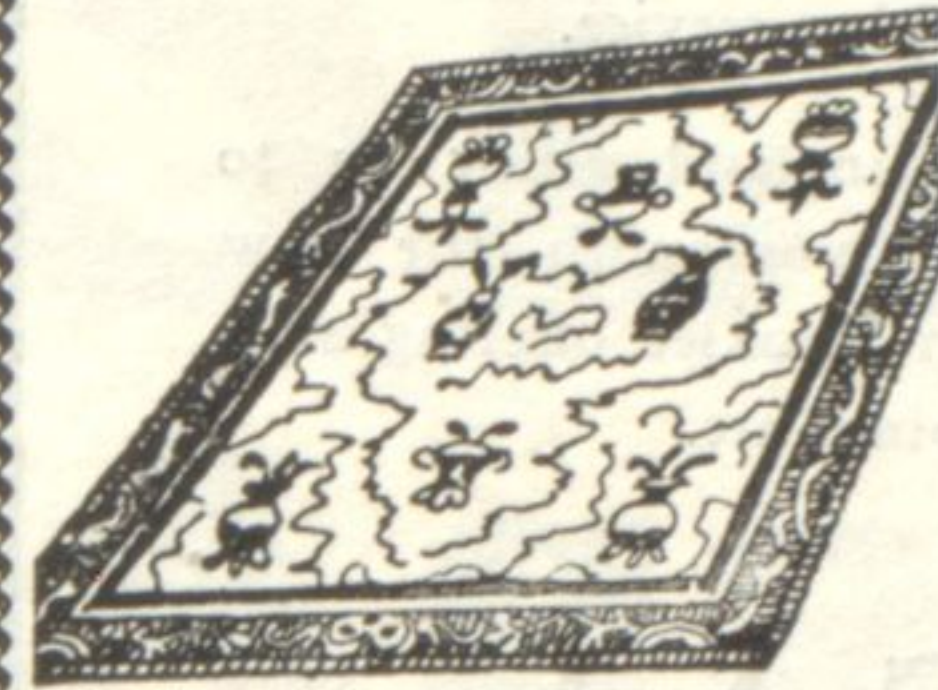
Mr. Gordon evidently had used much thought in preparing a program for such an informal audience, for there was something for everybody. He began with the Pugnani-Kreisler "Prelude e Allegro," plunging into it with vigor, and playing with breadth and power. It was boldly set forth, and the audience seemed to appreciate fully the fine work. Then came that exquisitely ethereal "Melodie" by Gluck, and the "Waltz in E Minor" by Brahms, arranged by Mr. Gordon. These had the mellow, sustained melodies played in a way that couldn't fail to stir an audience. His first group closed with Beethoven's more lively "Contredance." Harold Van Horne gave Mr. Gordon excellent support at the piano, for he has the talent to make the accompaniment vital yet not too obtrusive.

The second group dodged the conventional, for it began with Gardner's "From the Rockies," a notable part of which was the last bit where the melody is played in harmonics. Mr. Gordon is one of the very few violinists who know how to produce flute-like harmonics gracefully. A

novelty, "Mosquitoes," by Fairchild, followed, so cleverly executed that Mr. Gordon was in danger of being swatted. The piece jabs and sings with annoying acuteness. Sowerby's "Slow and Sentimental," and Gordon's arrangement of Glazounow's "Caprice," completed the second group. The latter was done mainly pizzicati and with harmonics. As an encore he offered Gounod's "Ave Maria," played with great richness and feeling. Ravel was the composer of "Pavane Pour une Infante Defunte" in the third group, worked out by Mr. Gordon in a restrained manner that fitted the idea. In "Waves at Play," by Grasse, he showed what his exceptionally nimble fingers could do, and in Debussy's "La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin" he showed what his musical background could contribute to that charming composition. The Debussy was remarkably delicate. He closed the program with

"Spanish Dance," by Nin, ending up with brilliance of rhythm and color that drew forth a tremendous burst of applause. The audience was still clapping heartily after his second encore. Among the guests at the musicale was Ethel Barrymore.

Mrs. W. F. Brown, 1173 Scott avenue, has had as her guests recently, her sister, Mrs. Natalie Wagner, and her niece, Florence Wurl, of Bessemer and Ironwood, Mich. Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Brown and family are leaving next week for Manitowish, Wis. They will be away a month.



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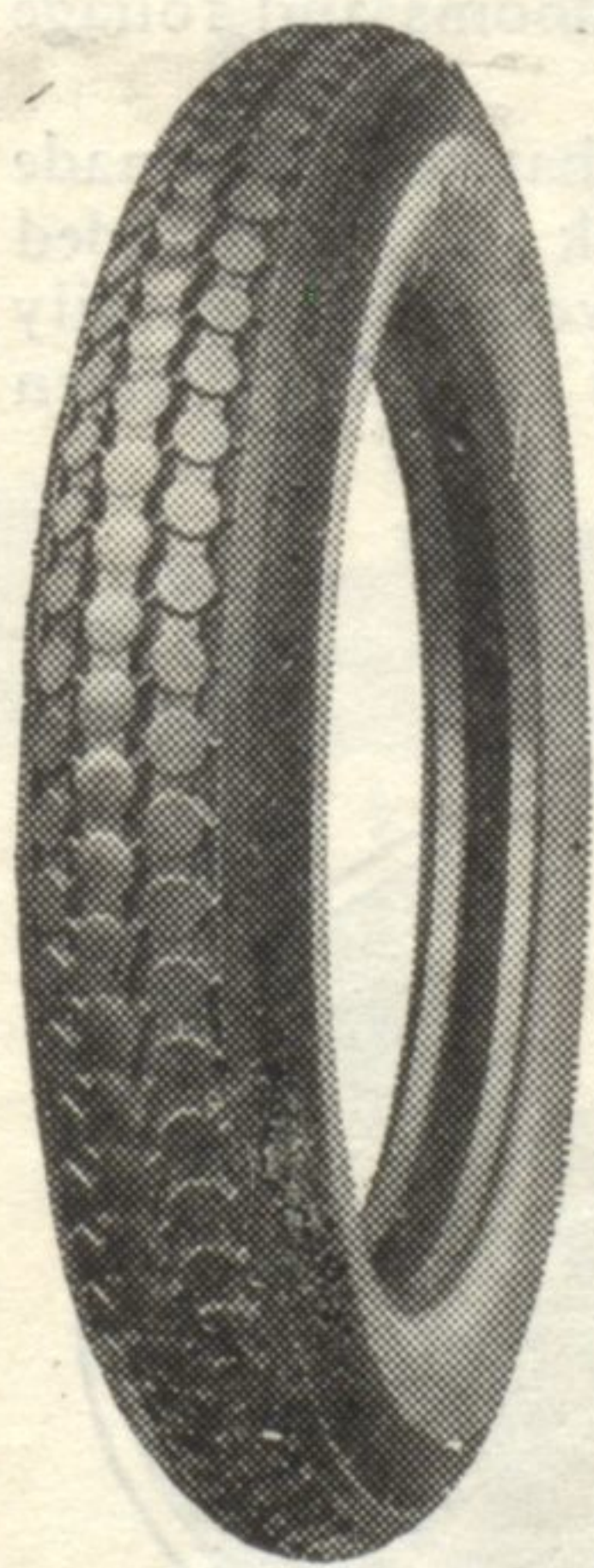
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