

SOPHIA KASSMIR, FORMER DULUTH GIRL, CREATES FURORE IN EUROPEAN OPERA



MISS SOPHIA KASSMIR.

Another former Duluth girl has succeeded in the artistic world. Sophia Kassmir and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. Z. Kassmir, who lived in Duluth until eight years ago, now make their home in Pittsburgh, but for several years Sophia has been studying abroad, and now she is one of the well-paid artists in grand opera in Europe. Since December, 1913, she has been engaged at the Charlottens-burg opera house at Berlin.

If all reports are true, Miss Kass-mir is destined to make one of the successes of the country. She is not yet 21, but she has had admirable training, and her voice is already well developed and under good control. Her stage name is Fraulein Kameron. She was advised to go to Europe to study by Madame Schumann-Heink, who was a soloist with her at a recital given at Carnegie hall, Pittsburgh, a few years ago. Accordingly, the girl entered the Vienna Conservatory of Music in 1911, graduating with high honors the next year. She studied during the summer of 1912 with Prof. Franz Hobeck of the Vienna conservatory, and had a hearing in the fall by Jean De Reszke. By his advice she studied a little longer at Vienna, then going to Berlin as an operatic star.

To deserve such commendation as is given in the following letter from a Berlin music-lover, falls to the lot of few:

"Berlin, May 23, 1914.

"My Dear Mrs. Kassmir—It gives me great pleasure to write you about your dear daughter, Sophia. It was at the Charlottensburg grand opera last night when she appeared in 'Faust,' and I cannot describe to you the joy of the warm reception and applause she received from an audience of over 10,000 patrons, especially when she sang the aria of the 'Jewel Song.' There was never in history before so far as I know applause for a singer between scenes. The audience nearly broke down the house, and when she sang the high notes, a genuine thrill ran through me. To tell you the truth I have heard the greatest singers in the world, but I never heard a singer take in one breath the high, middle and low tones as she does. I certainly congratulate you from the bottom of my heart, on having a daughter who is such an artist as she is. I simply cannot describe the criticisms in the newspapers. They state she is one of the wonders."

Sophia Kassmir studied the piano in Duluth with Mrs. D. H. Day, and voice with Mrs. Clothier. She may come here for a short visit this summer, after she has visited her parents in Pittsburgh. She is related to Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kassmir, 515 East Fifth street, and to Mrs. A. A. Friss. She will return to sing in Berlin in the fall.