

Jewish Violinists and Pianists

RANK AMONG THE FOREMOST IN THE WORLD

Perhaps no instrument has so many Jewish devotees as the violin. Many are the Jewish students of the violin and as many the Jewish violinists who have appeared, with greater or less success, in public. The greatest Jew of violin fame of any time was Leopold Auer. He was the teacher of a number of noted violinists of to-day—Heifetz, Elman, Powell, Zimbalist, Rosen, Seidel and others. Auer was born in Hungary, 1845. He was educated at the Conservatories of Vienna and Budapest. He was musical conductor at Dusseldorf and professor at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. Among his compositions are "Tarantelle de Concert" and Rhapsodie Hongroise.

His famous pupils, Elman, Heifetz, Zimbalist, Rosen, Seidel are also Jews.

Elman

Elman is twenty-nine years old. When he displayed unusual talent at the age of four, Auer obtained permission from the Tsar for him to study at the Petrograd Conservatory. He made his debut in Petrograd in 1904 and since then has appeared everywhere in Europe and America.

Heifetz

Heifetz is now but twenty-one years old. He began playing at three, and made rapid headway. He gave recitals before he was five, made his debut at six years of age, graduated from the Imperial Music School at seven, and attained national fame in Russia at ten.

Zimbalist

Zimbalist was born in Russia, 1899. He studied at the Petrograd Conservatory. He is the husband of Alma Gluck, the well-known Jewish soprano. In addition to being an acknowledged virtuoso, Zimbalist is also a musical scholar, and has written an authoritative book on the theory and practice of violin-playing.

Joachim

Among the famous Jewish violinists of the past was Joseph Joachim, born in Hungary in 1831. He made his first public appearance in Budapest at seven years of age, and was taken by Mendelssohn to England where he made his debut. His appointment as solo violinist to the King of Hanover marked an epoch in his life. He composed an overture to Hamlet, "Hebrew Melodies," and selections for violin, piano, and orchestra.

It is well to mention a few other

well known Jewish violinists: Mintschky, Max Bendix, Tosha Seidel, Max Rosen, Sascha Jacobsen, Pilzer, Samuel Gardner, David Hochstein, and Alice Liebmann.

Hochstein was killed while fighting with the American forces in the Argonne Forest.

Great Jewish Pianists

Almost as numerous as Jewish violinists and quite as famous in their own field, are the Jewish pianists. Such names as Leopold Godowsky, Mischa Levitzky, Leo Ornstein, Moritz Rosenthal, Fanny Blumfield Zeisler, Mark Hambourg, Emil Sauer, Arthur Rubinstein, Beryl Rubenstein, Lhevinne Moiseiwitch and others are known to many audiences of America and Europe.

Godowsky

Godowsky, who was born in Wilna, Russia, in 1870, is a composer as well as a pianist. He began concertizing at the age of nine, and all through his career has made extensive tours in Europe and America. His successes include activities in the field of musical education.

Levitzki

Levitzki, who is twenty-two years old, is of Russian birth, but was educated in the public schools of New York City. He studied music in New York, Warsaw, and Berlin, receiving the Mendelssohn prize at the latter city in 1914, but subsequently losing it because of his Russian origin.

Ornstein

Ornstein is best known for his repertoire of ultra-modern and futuristic music. This includes many of his own compositions. Ornstein made his formal appearance before the public at New York City in 1911.

Rosenthal has served as pianist to the Roumanian Court. He was heard in Europe and America during the period from 1885-90.

Fanny Blumfield Zeisler is Rosenthal's cousin. Another member of this musical family is Adolf Robinson, a cousin of Zeisler, who is a baritone, formerly with the Metropolitan Opera Company. Zeisler was born in Silesia in 1803. She has appeared in many European and American cities.

(This is the second of a series of three articles by Eugene V. Segal on "The Jew in Music." The concluding article will appear on Tuesday—The Editor).