

TALK TO MUSIC LOVERS

Weekly Comment on Things Musical in Discriminating Philadelphia

AMONG the most interesting things that the current music scene, now preparing to open its infant eyes upon a turbulent world, will behold, is the re-entry (one might almost say entry and not far wrong) of the Italian into the field of absolute music. The Italian musical mind has always run strongly in the direction of the opera, somewhat to the neglect of the field of absolute music. There is ample reason for this, as the opera is undoubtedly the great world of Italy. It had its advent in Florence about 1600 and there is no question that it was, at that time, a perfectly new thing in music, although, of course, it was not a Greek drama. Its success in Italy was instantaneous and very great, although other countries were rather slow in taking it up.

ITALY, however, continued to maintain her supremacy in the opera, a position she has held to the present day, even in the fact that the Italian opera, written in the Italian style and language, have never been surpassed and are practically the only ones composed in his period which are heard by the present generation.

THESE, with a couple of symphonies by Scarpanti and Martucci, neither of them worth making out in detail, are the only Italian composers, who by the way, to the late John Field, of Philadelphia, a piano quintet of Martucci and a dubious string quartet by Verdi, constitute the bulk of Italy's contribution to absolute music which is still heard since the time of Alessandro Scarlatti.

Italy, however, is the land of the human voice. The Italian masters of composition have always considered the voice to be the supreme instrument, and they may be right in that, and as a consequence, the Italian style of music is not only the greatest singers, but also many of the finest compositions for the voice in opera as well as in other forms.

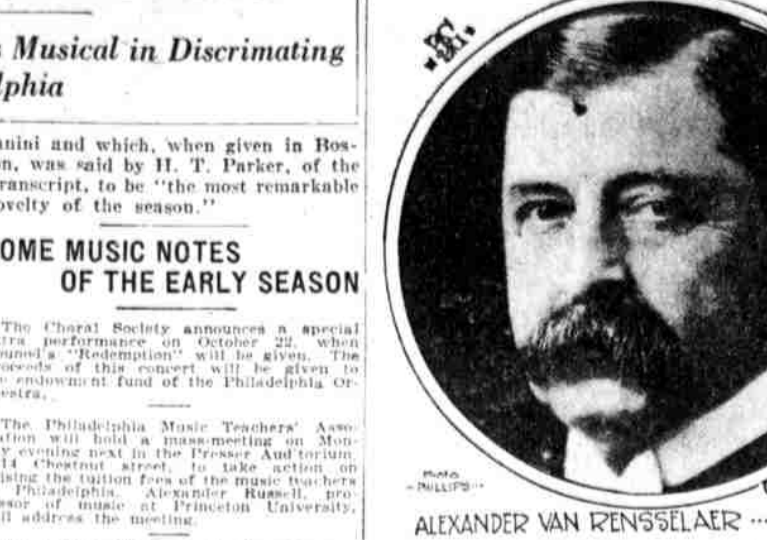
THE movement had its beginning just before the war and the world conflict seems to have strengthened it rather than weakened it. At the same time that these men have devoted themselves largely to symphonies, string quartets and piano trios, they have neglected the opera, for each of them has at least one to his credit.

WITH that liberality and catholicity of mind which has frequently been commented upon in this column, the United States has been among the first to extend the hand of friendship to the new Italian school of composition, and last season no fewer than five important works by these composers were produced by our leading orchestras.

The compositions given were by the five leading orchestras of the United States, the Philadelphia, the Boston, the Chicago, the Pittsburgh and the New York. Mr. Strinsky, conductor, and the Symphony Society of New York, conducted by Mr. Danross.

In Chicago Mr. Stock produced the opera "Fedra," of Pizetti, which Mr. Stockowski gave at one of the last concerts of the season and which on the whole produced a favorable impression.

ORCHESTRA TO CAMPAIGN FOR ENDOWMENT FUND



ALEXANDER VAN RENSSELAER

ORCHESTRA MUST RAISE A MILLION

This Sum Needed as Endowment Fund to Insure Permanency of the Organization

Unless the Philadelphia Orchestra can add \$1,000,000 to its endowment fund in the near future, it will have to curtail its activities or, possibly, disband. Its position as first orchestra of America, if not of the whole world, depends entirely on whether sufficient money can be raised in the month of October, 1919. We must go to the people of Philadelphia at that time and ask them to 'save the orchestra.'

The Philadelphia Orchestra Association, of which Alexander Van Rensselaer is president, will give a series of nine luncheons at the Ritz-Carlton during the one million dollar campaign for the endowment fund. The first luncheon will be held on Friday, October 3.

It has been announced that Mr. Stockowski, under whose leadership the orchestra has made such strides, has signed a new contract which insures his services at least until the close of the season of 1922-23.

The big business men of the city warmly endorse the movement. In speaking of the campaign, Edwina B. Morris, president of the Grand Trust Company, said: "The orchestra carries the name of Philadelphia to other cities and always carries it with credit. Over 95,000 persons attended the concerts in those cities and they carry away with them a conviction that Philadelphia does well whatever she undertakes before the people of Philadelphia in the coming campaign."

The campaign will run during the month of October. This is the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the orchestra and it is a fine time for the people of the city to assure its permanency. The orchestra has a fine record of past achievement on which to go before the people, from its humble beginning, and its future is bright, if the financial difficulties with which it has constantly struggled can be relieved, which this endowment fund will do.

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LEOPOLD STOKOWSKI, Conductor

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LA TEST FICTION

MORE SPY STUFF OUT OF THE WAR

"Mr. Standfast" Has an Extraordinary American Hero

John Buchan, novelist and journalist and during the war member of the intelligence division of the British War Office, has added another German spy to the gallery in his Moxon Verry (alias Count von Schwabing), the "thrice-damned villain" of the new Buchan novel, "Mr. Standfast." If the writers of fiction are to be credited, all Germans were spies and most of them master minds. But his masterliness and his mental agility, supplemented by the skill and intelligence of his associates in espionage, didn't get him any farther than to be cannonfodder for a machine gun of his own compatriots in the great Ludendorff push of the spring of 1918. How he met this deadly poetic termination of his diabolical misdeeds it takes a long and complicated tale to tell. Suffice it to say that the story is rather trite and machine-made stuff. There is a lot of "fine writing" in it, but where Mr. Buchan would have the reader thrill or touched the reader usually smiles. Among the counter-spy forces who turn the trick against Verry are a perfect girl, too good to be real; a British brigadier general, who when not engaged in counter-spying drops in on the front and takes command of a division for a few days of crisis, such as when the foe was steam-rollered in its way toward Amiens in March, 1918, and John S. Blenkinsop, as truly drawn as any Yankee movie writers portray dukes and countesses.

Oh, John S. Blenkinsop, of course! He is an American, a typical American apparently, for he has made his "pile," he is bluff, hearty, shrewd, keen at retort, quick on the trigger, a bit crude perhaps, not cultured naturally. He is a diamond in the rough, one of nature's noblemen, and he has a poker face among his other attributes of Americanism. We know he is a typical American (if you still have doubts) because he speaks the American language. He speaks the American language as Jefferson Brick spoke it. 'He is, in fact, a typical American of the Jefferson Brick type.'

Mr. Buchan has made his book worth while on this point by the great creation of Blenkinsop. He is also good enough to puff America's part in the war, somewhat after the manner of Marshall Haig.

As a whole, this is not the best spy yarn of the season. The author has won his greatest success in Scotch fiction, of showing the "Scottishness" of his school and of the MacLaren (bucolic or kale) school. He is out of school in spy stuff.

MR. STANDFAST, By John Buchan, New York: George H. Doran Company, \$1.50.

GRADUATES FROM VAUDEVILLE

Two graduates from vaudeville with Al Johnson in "Sinbad" are Irene and Constance Farber, two sisters, who do a song-and-patter act, in addition to rendering several vocal selections.

ROBUST ROMANCE

"Rosy" Has Adventure and Sentiment—Well Told

"Rosy" is robust, red-blooded romance. Usually this type of romance has a square-jawed hero, and the word virile is the proper characterization. You couldn't see virile for the titular heroine of Louis Dodge's gripping novel, but you could see the feminine in the shrilling, clinging, cloying souse, either. She is modernly feminine, which means that she does not yield in vigor to mere masculinity and that she is not lacking in the true tenderness that is all womanly.

Rosy is a delightful heroine. Thus, doubtless, she thought the two fugitives who sought refuge in her cabin. Shotgun in hand and wit alert she sends the pursuing posse away without its quarry. Why the two men fled and how they affected the life of the sturdy, fine girl make a good story which causes nothing but Mr. Dodge's graphic telling. The novel is a first release of man of romance and the end is all that the most romantic reader would desire for satisfaction.

THE CHINESE PUZZLE, By Louis Dodge, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, \$1.50.

THE TYN SOLDIER

Novel of a Poilu

SORCERY

By Francis Charles MacDonald

A THRILLING story of love and adventure, magic and superstition, set in Hawaii, unfolding like some strange tropical flower in a single night. East and West, the present and antiquity, meet in Honolulu, and under a sensuous moonlight a group of fascinating people encounter the most crucial moment of their lives.

A CENTURY BOOK All booksellers \$1.35

THE CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR

The principal character in Harold Begbie's remarkable story, "The Conscientious Objector," is a rich English banker's son, who had a great ability in school and college and was expected to make a great success in political life. But he became deeply interested in the condition of the poor and determined to give himself to the study at first hand of the problems which they presented.

YELLOWLEAF

By Sacha Gregory

An Artistic Novel by a well known Author writing under a nom de plume.

An unusual work of fiction, with memorable characters and a rare setting of modern London social life. This novel, which shows culture and wide experience of the world, upholds the finest traditions of the Galsworthy-Bennett-Walpole school of modern English novelists. Yellowleaf, the London home of the Dampierre family, is the beautiful setting. A famous musician, Aghassy, brings storm and tragedy into the life of the widowed Lily, daughter-in-law of wise old Lady Mary, but the latter's brave strategy brings happiness out of chaos.

AT ALL BOOKSTORES J. B. LIPPINCOTT CO.

Do you know what the Irish Question really is? IRELAND

By EDWARD R. TURNER

European History in the University of Michigan gives an impartial, authoritative history of Ireland, with special reference to England. As readable as it is important. (A Century book. All booksellers. \$3.00.)

As good as a vacation in the great woods GREEN TIMBER TRAILS

By WILLIAM GERARD CHAPMAN

ANIMAL stories of the upper fur country. As refreshing as the clean, cold winds of the north woods. Beautifully illustrated. (A Century book. All booksellers. \$1.60.)

Have You Read It? SHERRY

By George Barr McCutcheon

One of his best stories. At all bookstores, \$1.75 DODD, MEAD & COMPANY Publishers New York

Leonard Merrick's delightful, whimsical novel CONRAD IN QUEST OF HIS YOUTH

is on sale at all bookstores. \$1.75. E. P. DUTTON & CO., 681 5th Ave., N. Y.

SEE ANNOUNCEMENT DAILY IN THE PUBLIC LEDGER AND EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER

PHOTOPLAY PRESENTATIONS FOR WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29 TO OCTOBER 4

Table with columns for days of the week (Monday to Saturday) and various theater listings including titles like 'The Mistletoe Widow', 'The Girl From Outside', 'The Girl From Inside', etc.

The theater listings are obtained through the STARLINE COMPANY OF AMERICA, which is a service of early showing of the best Broadway shows. All pictures