

KNEISEL QUARTET PLAYING.

AN AMERICAN COMPOSER GETS A HEARING.

F. S. Converse's A Minor Quartet (First Time in New York) Not Profitable in Novel Ideas—Schumann's Piano Quartet With Mme. Aus der Ohe at the Keyboard.

The Kneseil Quartet at its third concert, given last night at Mendelssohn Hall, paid tribute to the rising generation of American composers, brought back to notice the piano quartet of Schumann, which has been too much neglected, and played a quartet of Haydn which few in the audience could have heard often.

The American composer was F. S. Converse, one of the instructors in music in the extremely musical institution which is situated in Cambridge. That he has been in Munich and studied under Rheinberger would be sufficiently demonstrated by his composition, if it were not an established biographical fact.

It is in a minor, and is generally constructed in only three movements. Over in Boston, when this quartet was produced, they discovered that it showed a globe trotting catholicity of observation, in that it united notions of Munchener habrau brand with perfumes of Beethoven structure. Conservatism, jaded radicalism, and the composer linked the training of old school with the progressive impulses of to-day.

It takes a Boston seer to see things. That is his business. To come to the concert, the chronicler of the New York specialities seemed that the trouble with this quartet was that it did not possess any ideas, and was modern, and that it was equally innocent of ingenuity in working out. But, of course, it is always hard to make bricks without straw.

The first movement contains two themes, one long and one short, and that is the chief difference between them. The second movement also contains two themes, and this is the best movement of the three, inasmuch as it is the simplest in thought and the most natural. The thematic material of the last movement runs perilously near the degenerate atmosphere of the two-step. Mr. Converse has written a good exercise in part writing, and his teacher should not have permitted it to be played. Such music should be seen but not heard.

It was unfortunate for the American composer that Schumann's quartet was heard just after his. So Mr. Jerome had been reversed. But the Boston composer has the better of the German in at least one way, he can listen to Schumann's music, while Schumann cannot hear any at all. The piano part is a lovely work, only less inspired than the quartet, and it is a good deal of finer texture than that masterpiece.

The treatment of the four instruments shows unusual care, and in the third movement the composer in the final passage has the C string of the cello tuned down to B flat in order to produce a double octave effect as the fundamental bass.

The piano part is beautifully planned, and when just played was heard very closely into the whole instead of standing out like a solo part, as is so often the case in compositions of this kind. The composer is washing in melody, exquisite in development and surcharged with that ebullient, romantic enthusiasm which makes so many of Schumann's compositions so popular.

Both these works were admirably played. The Kneseil gentlemen treated the Converse work with the sanctity which they bestowed upon Haydn, and whatever merit it had was shown forth clearly by the Schumann number, played by Adèle Aus der Ohe, who had taken the trouble to memorize it.

She deserves praise for the continuance of her tone, her excellent conception of the spirit of the ensemble and her nice nuancing. The scherzo was given at a dangerously fast tempo, but it went with brilliant smoothness. The dainty Haydn quartet, one of the daintiest of the amiable musical confectioner's creations, carried the concert to a delectable close.

"ROLAND OF BERLIN" PRODUCED.

Leoncavallo's Long Heralded Opera Well Received—Not Considered a Great Work.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

BERLIN, Dec. 13.—A large and brilliant audience gathered at the Royal Opera House to-night to witness the first production of Leoncavallo's long heralded opera, "Roland of Berlin." The Emperor, a number of his relatives and members of the court attended in dazzling uniforms, a large number of high born ladies in magnificent gowns and sparkling with jewels, musicians, literati, artists and members of society were present.

The first and second acts of the opera produced a good impression, but interest sensibly fell in the third and fourth acts. On the whole it was a fine, spectacular work. It is evidently the result of study of the great musical masterpieces, but it is lacking in inherent, continuous interest.

The audience was most sympathetic and constantly recalled the composer. The Emperor frequently led the applause, and there was much enthusiasm throughout. After the performance his Majesty conferred upon the composer the Order of the Crown of the third class.

The critics speak of the opera with reserve. A majority of them appear to think that notwithstanding that it is full of melody and contains several beautiful lyrical passages it is not a great work, and it is questionable if it will prove popular.

MELBA HERE FOR THE OPERA.

She is to Sing in "La Traviata" and in "Rigoletto" Next Week.

Mme. Melba, who arrived in New York yesterday, will sing at two of the Metropolitan Opera House next week.

On Wednesday "Rigoletto" will be the opera, with Mme. Melba and Homer and M. Caruso, Giraioni and Jourant. On Friday "Faust" will be sung in French by Mme. Zamboni and Jacoby and M. Salses, Pianon and Giraioni. Nahan Franko will conduct the opera for the first time here.

At the Saturday matinee "L'Etair d'Amore" will be given, with Mme. Sembrich and M. Caruso, Scotti and Rossini. At the evening performance "Fidelio" will be sung by Mme. Saenger-Bettaque and Alton and M. Knise and Blais.

At the last evening performance of "Parsifal," on Dec. 22, M. Dippel will sing the title role for the first time this season. Mme. Nordica and M. Van Rooy, Blais and Jourant will sing the other roles.

Rossini's "Stabat Mater" will be sung for the next Sunday concert by Mme. Nordica and Homer and M. Blais and Jourant. Frank Pollock is the young American tenor who has not yet appeared at the Metropolitan.

The Concert of Marie de Rohan.

Marie de Rohan, coloratura soprano, gave a concert with orchestral support at Carnegie Hall last night. She sang two numbers from the stock in trade of the operatic coloratura singer, and displayed a voice of admirable quality and large proportions. Her method and style, however, appeared to be of less importance than the voice itself. Further hearing may serve to disclose something which for more extended consideration.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS! WALTHAM WATCHES HAVE STOOD THE TEST OF TIME.

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"RIVERSIDE" grade especially recommended.

LARRY JAILED IN A HURRY. SUMMERFIELD DECISION TELEPHONED TO JEROME FIRST.

And a Detective Ploys up the King of Con Men on Snowy Broadway—Prisoner in the Tombs—Is Rather Expected to Appeal to U. S. Supreme Court.

Larry Summerfield, who is looked upon by his brethren as the kingpin of the bunco men, and who has said that he would never go to prison, is again looked up in the Tombs. The Court of Appeals confirmed yesterday his conviction for complicity in the Horsham Copper Mining "sick engineer" swindle. Larry had been out on \$55,000 bail.

District Attorney Jerome had made arrangements to be notified at once when the Court of Appeals decision was handed down. He did not want Larry to hear of an adverse decision before the District Attorney heard of it. So Mr. Jerome had a representative at Albany who telephoned the court's decision to the District Attorney's office just as soon as it was handed down.

Several sleuths were sent chasing for Larry, and one of them, Detective Sergeant Stripp, picked him up at Thirty-fourth street and Broadway.

"I want you," said Stripp, tapping Larry on the shoulder.

"What am I wanted for now?" asked Larry. "They've pinched me for everything on the calendar except murder."

When Larry got to the District Attorney's office he found out what he was wanted for. It was for the Horsham Copper Mining case, in which he was charged with conspiracy to defraud.

"I don't know anything about it," Larry said. "I was in the Tombs before the Schumann number was played by Adèle Aus der Ohe, who had taken the trouble to memorize it."

She deserves praise for the continuance of her tone, her excellent conception of the spirit of the ensemble and her nice nuancing. The scherzo was given at a dangerously fast tempo, but it went with brilliant smoothness. The dainty Haydn quartet, one of the daintiest of the amiable musical confectioner's creations, carried the concert to a delectable close.

BANKER TO GO TO PRISON.

John H. Wood of Matthews, Ind., Guilty of Making Falsely Entries.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 13.—After a trial which has lasted more than a week, John H. Wood, president and cashier of the First National Bank of Matthews, was found guilty to-day of nineteen out of twenty counts in an indictment charging violations of the Federal banking laws. Sentence was withheld for one week to give the convicted banker a chance to settle his business affairs. The maximum penalty is ten years in prison.

During the trial it was shown that there were ten cases of false entries in the books and all these were made just prior to the appearance of a national bank examiner, and indicated that Wood knew exactly when to expect that official. Nine cases of misapplication of the funds of the bank were proved.

Webb-Huntley. STAMFORD, Conn., Dec. 13.—A wedding containing a line of romance took place Monday afternoon.

The contracting parties were Miss May Huntley, a school teacher of this place, and Frank Webb of Derby. The ceremony was performed at the home of Mr. John's church, officiated.

Miss Huntley was the intimate friend of Mr. Webb's first wife. Just before the latter died she expressed an earnest wish that Miss Huntley undertake the care of her little daughter. This Miss Huntley promised to do and faithfully fulfilled her trust.

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The Biography and Memoirs of 1904. A BELLE OF THE FIFTIES. RECOLLECTIONS AND LETTERS OF GENERAL LEE.

A Belle of the 50's. By Mrs. VIRGINIA CLAY CLOPTON. The Recollections and Letters of Gen. Robert E. Lee. By His Son, Captain ROBERT E. LEE.

Standing above all as the two books of the year most eminently fitted for gift making, by reason of their permanent value, attractive appearance, moderate price AND INSTANT SUCCESS.

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McGIBBON & Co. Broadway at Nineteenth Street. WE begin our Inventory preparation one month earlier than last year, and during December and January will offer ALL Housekeeping Linen Goods Brass Beds and Bedding Curtains and Lace Draperies Upholstery Stuffs Oriental Rugs. Everything at 10% Discount. Goods perfect in every way.

MUSICAL ART SOCIETY. First Concert, Thurs. Ev., Dec. 15. SYMPHONY CONCERTS For Young People. Saturday, December 17, at 7.30.

AUCTION SALE OF SEATS. LILLIAN RUSSELL IN LADY TO-NIGHT AT 8.15 P. M. Monday, Dec. 19, at Casino.

ICE SKATING. HARLEM OPERA HOUSE. Cecelia Loftus. Hurlig & Seamon's.

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