JOSEF HOFMANN'S CONCERT

BEAUTIFUL PIANO PLAYING BY THE ARTIST.

A Recital of Masterpieces by a Master of Interpretation—An Unusually Fine Performance of Works by Beethoven and Schumann—Recalled Eight Times.

"To the poet," remarks the learned Dr. Johnson in his "Rasselas," "nothing can be useless. Whatever is beautiful and whatever is dreadful must be familiar to his imagination; he must be conversant with all that is awfully vast or elegantly minute." Musicians of the present period place more stress on familiarity with that which is dreadful than with that which is beautiful, but with them, as with the poet, it is essential to be acquainted with all that is awfully vast or elegantly minute. This musing, THE SUN'S listener took to sit on and on yesterday afternoon in Carnegie Hall while Josef Hofmann played upon a piano and upon the susceptibilities of an audience apathetic at first but in the end moved to real feeling.

It was a wonderful recital, not merely of great music but of a large and masterful nature. Comment has already been made in this place on the steady and persistent growth of Mr Hofmann till he has reached a splendid maturity, but his concert leaves behind it an impression of wider spiritual spaces opened to the startled gaze of multitudes. The programme performed yesterday was a great one, and it was greatly interpreted, but when that is said words are lamentably weak.

For example Mr Hofmann played yesterday Beethoven's big sonata, opus 111; Chopin's C sharp minor scherzo and Schumann's C major fantasia. Now to furnish the musical and poetic content of these three compositions requires all the resources of the pianist's art, backed by a temperament of the most vital force and sensitive impression. Much can be done with all three of the works by a player who has sound musicianship and adequate technic, coupled with keen intelligence. But the whole can be done only by a player who has exhausted all the possibilities of the keyboard and the pedals and whose reading of each work is directed not only by intelligence and profound feeling but also by that unerring and indescribable judgment of the artist which makes him retain in perfect and exquisite balance every phrase and every nuance in that phrase.

It was in such details that Mr. Hofmann rose yesterday to aerial heights where perhaps only the most accomplished connoisseurs of piano playing could follow him. Yet what shall be said of the receptive audience which burst into prolonged enthusiasm after the performance of the Beethoven sonata and recalled the pianist no less than eight times?

No wonder, for nothing could have been more inspiring than his playing of the noble work, especially his matchless delivery of the concluding pages. Here all was so transparent, so mellow and yet continent in tonal quality, so suffused with delicate and radiant color, so full of the profound but untheatric emotion of Beethoven that at the cessation of the last measure the hearer felt that the inner shrine of a mighty genius had been penetrated and that it was good for him to be there.

The comment that might be made on the reading of the Schumann fantasia would have to be of like kind. Mr Hofmann played this work when he previously last visited New York, and at that time it was thought that he had entered as deeply into its riches as he ever would, but the record must now be that he has opened up new vistas for himself. His performance yesterday cannot properly be characterized without the use of language which might appear to be extravagant.

There is a temptation to dwell on the technical side of his concert because so much of it was the offering of a consummate master. For example in the playing of the Bach-Taussig toccata and fugue with which the programme began Mr Hofmann's employment of the pressure touch in the tremendous, organlike chords of the last measures was a technical achievement which ought to have been a lesson to every pianist in the auditorium; but no one should lose sight of the fact that this touch was utilized in this manner to produce just the correct musical effect and not for its own sake.

Again in the Mozart-Goubron variations what bewitching daintiness of finger! What subtle gradations of tonal quality and infinitesimal steps in dynamics! It was a piece of pure virtuosity, but the best and most musical kind. Mr Hofmann played that familiar "Chant Polonaise" of Chopin which Mme Sembrich has so often sung. She sat in a box and listened, and doubtless he played it as a famous countrywoman. He made the piano sing the melody almost as happily as she sings it. No wonder that she threw him a "Bravo!" which the whole house heard.

There were some captivating pedal effects in yesterday's performance and it was impossible afterward to recall what had been injected ad captandum. Once again, then, let us all be grateful for the beautiful and normal development of this musical personality whose promise years back came so near to being blighted by the rude grasp of greed.

THE OPERA HOUSE MATINEE.

The Ancient Double Bill for a Large Audience.

"Cavalleria Rusticana" and "Pagliacci" alternates in the wood of the lyric drama were again found by a large audience yesterday afternoon at the Metropolitan Opera House. There were no matters of moment in the representation, perhaps the first essay of Alma Gluck in the rôle of *Nedda*. Such doings are regarded as of pregnant, even portentous import by those for whom opera is a thing that is noteworthy in musical annals. It is recorded then, that Mrs Gluck was delight to the eye, especially in the first act, and that she sang her music most agreeably, particularly that little birdie song in the early part of the opera.

It would be an exaggeration to say that the prima donna met all the dramatic needs of *Nedda*. These are generally in the imagination. Other singers in the casts of the two works were those who have been heard here. Can it be that after all *Santuzza* Emma Destinn's best part? Also can it be that Dinh Gilly has not received from singers the recognition which he deserves? At any rate such artistic singing as his yesterday afternoon calls for serious consideration.

Reception to Gaelic League Envoys.

A reception will be given at the Grand Central Palace this evening to the Gaelic League envoys, Father Michael O'Flanagan and Florian MacCobin. The Gaelic League was founded in Dublin seventeen years ago. Its aim is to preserve the life of Ireland as a distinct nationality by means of an educational propaganda. Magistrate McAdoo will preside. Justices Goff, Dowling and Keogh and Dr. Crimmins will also speak.

XAVER SCHARWENKA'S RECITAL.

The Distinguished Composer Heard With Pleasure at Mendelssohn Hall.

Xaver Scharwenka, the distinguished composer and pianist, gave a piano recital yesterday afternoon at Mendelssohn Hall. To the regret of many music lovers this entertainment took place at precisely the same hour as Mr. Hoffmann's and hence it was impossible to hear both artists. Mr Scharwenka offered a programme of excellent music arranged in such a manner as to be continually interesting. The first number was Chopin's fantasia in F minor, opus 49, a work which is not played so often as to be familiar to all concertgoers. Liszt's "Ricordanza" and "Mephisto Valse" were the next two numbers, and then the pianist interpreted in a thoughtful and musicianly style Beethoven's "Sonata appassionata."

The programme came to a conclusion with a group of compositions by Mr Scharwenka. These were the theme and variations, opus 48, novelette, opus 22, "Spanish Serenade," opus 63, two Polish dances, opus 15 and opus 3, and the staccato etude, opus 27. Mr. Scharwenka's piano compositions are almost invariably melodious, clear and symmetrical in form, and perfectly adapted to the utterance of the instrument. They are furthermore most congenial to his own charmingly smooth and fluent style of performance. Those heard yesterday received most hearty applause.

BELASCO AT REHEARSALS.

Drilling Singers for "The Girl of the Golden West" in American Ways.

David Belasco assumed charge yesterday of the rehearsals of "The Girl of the Golden West" at the Metropolitan Opera House. Mr. Belasco's desire is to impart an American atmosphere to the proceedings of the singers who have never seen any such characters as those they are called upon to represent. Among all the actors there is only one American. The distinctive American types in the play are to be represented by ten Italians, a Bohemian, a Pole, a Spaniard, a Frenchman, two Germans and one American. So Mr. Belasco has been called in to devote this week to making this polyglot crew act as much as possible like Americans of the '49 period.

Mr. Belasco has Signor Viviani at his elbow as an interpreter and he moves among the singers showing one a gesture, another the way to walk across the stage in Western fashion and then a third singer asks his advice as to the most correct Western fashion of drawing a gun. Sometimes Mr. Belasco will let all his class stand at attention while he steps to the side of the stage and goes through some gesture which he thinks they all should know.

Mr. Belasco has been very much impressed with the quickness with which Signor Caruso has acquired an American manner of that place and period.

Signor Gatti-Casazza finds this latest opera of Puccini the most difficult work he has ever mounted with the exception of "Louise."

"There are so many changes of tempo, so much variety in the action and such constant movement dependent on that of others," he said yesterday, "that next to Charpentier's opera it is a most exacting work to stage. I used to think when I first put on 'Falstaff' that it was about as difficult an opera to put in scene as any that I knew, but this work of Puccini's is much more unusual and out of the ordinary."

NEWS OF PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

Adolf Philipp to Retire From the Stage and Reconstruct Plays.

Adolf Philipp, the German-American actor, manager and playwright, who played with his company at the Winter Garten in Eighty-sixth street, will not play for some time. He will devote his time to adaptation of several foreign musical and dramatic plays which he has secured from different authors in France and Germany. He has just finished the adaptation of a new musical play called "Aunt Mary's Aeroplane," by Paul Herve, music by Jean Briquet, author and composer of "Alma, Where Do You Live?"

Miss Katharine Kaelred has been engaged by the Authors Producing Company for the leading role in the new Henry Arthur Jones play of English social life, "We Can't Be as Bad as All That!" which which will be placed in rehearsal on Monday.

Henry B. Harris has arranged with Messrs. Klaw & Erlanger, who are directing the American tour of the Imperial Russian Court Balalaika Orchestra, for the appearance of Ruth St. Denis, who last season was seen in an exposition of Hindu dances at the Hudson Theatre, with the orchestra in a series of matinée performances at the New Amsterdam Theatre beginning Monday, December 12.

"Nana," the Parisian dancer who is to tour this country under the management of William Morris, arrived yesterday on the Campania. Her American debut will be made at the American Music Hall on December 12.

GIVES PARK TO PITTSBURG.

Miss Anna M. Spring Places the Old Denny Mansion and 25 Acres in Hands of D. A. R.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 3. Miss Anna Melazina Spring of Riverside Drive, New York, member of the National Arts Club and last surviving grandchild of Ebenezer Denny, first Mayor of Pittsburg, announces in a letter to the Pittsburg Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, the gift to the chapter of a twenty-five acre site for Denny Memorial Park.

The park surrounds the old Denny mansion, one of the historic spots around the city. The donor provides that it must be used for the patriotic education of boys and girls. She gives the old homestead as a clubhouse for the boys and provides for the erection of a separate clubhouse for the girls. The property is in the centre of the foreign tenements of the mill district and this is the class Miss Spring wants interested.

The local D. A. R. have accepted the gift and will appoint trustees. Miss Spring moved to New York from this city five years ago.

EDMOND CLEMENT RETURNS.

Opera Singer to Make Concert Appearances in This Country.

Edmond Clement, the tenor who sang last winter at the Metropolitan Opera House and the New Theatre, arrived yesterday on the Savoie to make a concert tour here under the direction of Loudon Charlton. He will sing here at the Philharmonic concerts and later will appear with Geraldine Farrar in the concerts of old French music to be given at the Hotel Plaza on Monday mornings in January. Arnold Dolmetsch will provide the musical accompaniment for these.

Mr Clement, who has been singing in Paris and other French cities, will appear with the opera in Montreal.

Sale of Needlework of Sewing School.

A sale of needlework suitable for Christmas gifts made by the girls in the Sisters' sewing school will be opened on December 5 at the Plaza Hotel by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary and will continue until Christmas eve. More than thirty girls were engaged through the summer in making the articles for the sale. The sewing school is entirely free and the girls are trained to be self-supporting by experts in needlecraft. Visitors are welcomed at the Sisters' convent, 225 East Forty-fifth street.

IN SOCIETY.

Among the dances of the week are the Junior Cotillon to be given at Sherry's on Tuesday night and the Cinderella Cotillon at the same place on Thursday. Other dances of the Junior Cotillons will be given on Tuesday nights, January 3 and February 7. The additional Cinderella Cotillon will be given Thursday night, January 26.

The list of patronesses of the Junior Cotillons for this season includes Mrs. Edward D. Adams, Mrs. Gerham Bacon, Mrs. Waldron P. Brown, Mrs. Stephen H. Brown, Mrs. Winthrop Burr, Mrs. Frederick T. Bush, Mrs. William Allen Butler, Mrs. Edward S. Burrill, Mrs. Henry E. Coe, Mrs. George H. Clements, Mrs. James C. Colgate, Mrs. Walter Damrosch, Mrs. Arthur M. Dodge, Mrs. Newbold Edgar, Mrs. William S. Edgar, Mrs. Robert Endicott, Mrs. E. Hayward Terry, Mrs. Daniel C. French, Mrs. James A. Glover, Mrs. E. Renshaw Jones, Mrs. Hamilton Fish Kean, Mrs. Grenville Kane, Mrs. John J. Kane, Mrs. H. Van Rensselaer Kennedy, Mrs. Rudolph H. Kissel, Mrs. Woodbury Langdon, Mrs. Edward A. Martin, Mrs. John I. Melcher, Mrs. Francis W. Murray, Mrs. Thomas Newbold, Mrs. William Church Osborn, Mrs. George W. Perkins, Miss Ada Phipps, Mrs. Winslow Pierce, Mrs. Howland Russell, Mrs. Thomas T. Sherman, Mrs. E. Dutilh Smith, Mrs. Munroe Smith, Mrs. Charles E. Tiffany, Mrs. Bache McE. Whitlock and Mrs. Frank S. Witherbee.

William S. Groesbeck Fowler, in anticipation of his wedding with Miss Katherine Delafield Hall next Thursday afternoon, gave his bachelor dinner last night at the Union Club. His guests included his brother, Robert Ludlow Fowler, Jr., W. Lewis Stevens, Oswald Jackson, Lloyd Aspinwall, Stuyvesant Fish Morris, Bryce Metcalf, all of New York, Henry D. Sleeper of Boston and Lieutenant Commander William Groesbeck, U. S. N. The ceremony is to be performed in the Church of the Transfiguration in East Twenty-ninth street at 4 o'clock by the rector, the Rev. Dr. George C. Houghton. The bride will be attended by her sister, Mrs. Bryce Metcalf, as matron of honor, and the Misses Mary Ludlow Fowler, a sister of the bridegroom, Lucille Stevens, Elizabeth Delafield and Gladys Wolryche-Whitmore will be bridesmaids. Afterward Mrs. John T. Hall, the bride's mother, will give a reception at her home, 106 East Fortieth street.

Mrs. Edward W. Harris gave a tea yesterday afternoon at her home, 55 West Fifty-fourth street, at which she introduced Miss Eloise Talcott, her daughter by a former marriage. Afterward Mrs. Harris gave a dinner of twenty-four covers at the Plaza Hotel, and an informal dance followed at her home, where there were about sixty dancers.

Mrs. John Stevens Melcher will give one of the debutante teas on next Saturday afternoon, at her residence, 5 East Fifty-first street, for her daughter, Miss Margaret Stevens Melcher. She is a granddaughter of the late Paran Stevens by his first wife. The second late Mrs. Paran Stevens, so well known socially for many years in New York and Newport society, was the mother of Lady Paget. Mrs. J. Henry Dick of 20 East Fifty-third street will give a reception next Saturday from 4 until 7 o'clock, when she will introduce Miss Julia Dick. Another of the Saturday coming out events will be that of Mrs. A. Page-Brown for Miss Agnes Page-Brown, at the home of the debutante's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Roger A. Pryor, 3 West Sixty-ninth street. Mrs. Eben Wright of 10 West Fifty-third street, who gives a tea next Saturday for Miss Leila Wright, will also give a dance for her on Wednesday, December 21.

Mrs. George Bayles Sanford, who has come to town for the winter and is at 112 East Thirtieth street, is among those who have cards out for a débutante tea next Saturday for Miss Genevieve T. Sanford.

Mrs. Lucius H. Beers of 120 East Thirty-ninth street will introduce her daughter, Miss Eleanor N. Beers, on Saturday and will give a dinner, theatre and supper party afterward.

The marriage of Miss Marjorie Foote Howe and James I. Bruyn will take place next Thursday at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. David Sommers Howe, 730 Riverside Drive.

The wedding of Miss Susan Hubbell Seymour and Joseph Bryant Leake will take place next Saturday afternoon at the Madison Square Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst, the pastor, will perform the ceremony at 4 o'clock and the bride will enter with her father, Julius Hubbell Seymour. She will be attended by Mrs. William Brown De Haven as matron of honor. The Misses Constance McCall, Harriette Clarkson, Edna Willetts, Constance Mee all of New York, Julia H. Billings of New Haven, Emeroy Seymour of Pelham Manor and Anna Fries of Germantown will be bridesmaids. Fanny Leake and Virginia De Haven are to be the flower maidens. Robert H. Leake will assist as best man and Brock Putnam of New York, Frederic Leake, Harold Brown, Brown Rolston of Plainfield, Sheldon Potter of Cleveland, William R. Scott of Pittsburg, S. B. Read of Pawtucket, R. I., S. B. Brooks of Baltimore and George Orr of Evanston, Ill., are the ushers. Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Seymour, the bride's parents, will give a reception at their home, 304 West Eighty-sixth street, following the ceremony.

Mrs. Elsie French Vanderbilt will remain in town until after the Christmas holidays, when she will go to England. Mrs. Vanderbilt is going on to Newport shortly for a brief stay at the Breakers. As Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt have done little or no entertaining for some years, their present retirement, owing to mourning for the late R. T. Wilson, will have no effect on the social gayety of the season. Mr. and Mrs. Reginald C. Vanderbilt will remain in town until the middle of January, when they will go abroad for a few months.

Mrs. Charles E. Sands and her daughter, Mrs. Sands Delafield, whose former husband was Maturin Delafield, Jr., arrived from Europe on Wednesday and are at the Hotel Buckingham for the winter. T. J. Oakley Rhinelander and Mrs. Rhinelander, who is a daughter of Mrs. Sands, accompanied Mrs. Vanderbilt to the opera on Monday night.

Sir James Young and Miss Julia Young have been in town for several days. Prince and Princess Ypsalanti of Vienna have entertained friends at dinner of late at their hotel. Miss Sybil Grey-Wilson, daughter of Sir William Grey-Wilson, Governor of the Bahamas, was the chief guest at the dinner dance given by Mrs. Joseph S. Ulman on Monday night. Lieut. Sir Trevor Dawson and Lady Dawson left on Wednesday for England. Lady Johnstone, wife of Sir Alan Johnstone, had a tea given for her yesterday afternoon by her mother, Mrs. Pinchot, at her home in Washington. Lady Johnstone, over here for a short stay, will leave next week for Europe. Sir Robert Hadfield and Lady Hadfield have leased the house of Gen. and Mrs. Charles L. Fitzhugh, 2253 Sheridan Circle, Washington.

Mrs. Benjamin Thaw of 855 Fifth avenue gave a big tea yesterday afternoon for her only daughter, Miss Henrietta Thaw. Afteward there was a dinner and dance. During the Christmas holidays Mrs. Thaw will give a party at Pittsburg, Pa., for the débutante. Another reception of yesterday was that of Mrs. George Wabridge Perkins of 76 Park avenue for her daughter, Miss Dorothy Perkins. The young women of the receiving party came from out of town to assist and they and other young people are with Mrs. Perkins and Miss Perkins to-day at her country house at Riverdale.

Mrs. George von L. Meyer, wife of the Secretary of the Navy, and the Misses Meyer, who have been abroad since they closed their cottage at Beverly late in the summer, are expected home next Friday or Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Spencer Wetherbee and Miss Evelyn S. Witherbee are expected to arrive home next Thursday, December 8, on the Adriatic after a stay of several months in Europe.

Miss Adele Colgate, whose fortune came to her from her father, the late Mr. Colgate of this city, is now the guest of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Beekman Winthrop at Washington. While her mother, Mrs. Walter Kennard, known as Lady Strafford, lives in England, Miss Colgate prefers to make her home in this country.

Prince and Princess Cantacuzene, son-in-law and daughter of Gen. and Mrs. Frederick Dent Grant, left Governors Island for Florida last Thursday. Countess Louisa Alexandra von Bernstorff, daughter of the German Ambassador, is the guest here of Miss Amy Townsend at 512 Fifth avenue. Count and Countess Trotti of Paris have been in town of late.

John A. Tuckerman gave his bachelor dinner last night in Boston, when his guests included Benjamin Joy, Dudley Rogers Howe, Rudolph Weld, Roger Derby, Francis R. Appleton, Jr., Charles Appleton of Boston, Lydig Hoyt, Aymar Johnson, Chalmers Wood, Jr., Henry Morgan of New York and Russell E. Sard of Albany, who are to assist him as best man and ushers at his wedding with Miss Katherine S. Atterbury next Saturday, December 10. The ceremony at St. Thomas's Protestant Episcopal Church, Fifth avenue and Fifty-third street, will be performed by the rector, the Rev. Dr. Ernest M. Stires, at 12 o'clock. Miss Atterbury, who is the fourth and only unmarried daughter of John Turner Atterbury, will be given by him in marriage. She will be attended by her sister, Mrs. Dudley Rogers Howe of Boston, as matron of honor and by the Misses Matilda Frelinghuysen, Edythe Deacon, Beatrice Flagg, Natalie Howland, Beatrice Pratt and Katherine Jones of Baltimore as bridesmaids. After the church ceremony Mr. and Mrs. John Turner Atterbury will give a bridal breakfast at their home, 13 West Forty-ninth street.

Miss Gladys Durant Rice and John Saltonstall of Boston are to have a quiet wedding next Saturday, December 10. The ceremony will be performed at noon in the little old village church at Bedford, N. Y., where the bride's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Rice of 123 East Nineteenth street, have a country place. There will be no bridesmaids or ushers. Robert Saltonstall will assist his brother as best man. Mr. Saltonstall and his bride will live at 181 Commonwealth avenue, Boston. Miss Rice has always taken much interest here in the musical part of the University Settlement work, having organized the first child's orchestra under the direction of David Mannes and engineered the first settlement concerts.

Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish gave a dinner last night at Sherry's. She has staying with her at her home, 25 East Seventy-eighth street, Miss Janet Fish. Mr. and Mrs. Fish attended the opera during the week. Mrs. Robert R. Livingston, who gave a dinner on Friday night at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward N. Tailer, in Washington Square for her daughter, Miss Laura Suffern Livingston, will give a second on December 27. Tomorrow night Mr. and Mrs. H. Bramhall Gilbert of 40 West Fifty-seventh street will give a dinner for their débutante daughter, Miss Lilla Gilbert.

Mrs. Henry Clay Adams of 327 West Seventy-sixth street introduced Miss Dorothy Fox at a tea yesterday afternoon. Mrs. Adams wore a gray satin gown and Miss Fox was in white crêpe over satin, with sprays of pink roses. The Misses Rosa Morgan, Marjorie W. Riker, Helen Eggleston, Adelaide Carreau and Helen Adams of Virginia assisted.

Mrs. Wendell C. Phillips of 40 West Forty-seventh street gave a tea yesterday afternoon for her daughter, Miss Helen Irving Phillips. In the receiving party were the Misses Marguerite Shafer, Lila Blandy, Florence Croehle, Grace Stone, Josephine Jayne, Ella Laflin and Estelle Muqueen. Mrs. Phillips has the direction of the dances known as the New Assemblies, the first to be given next Friday night, December 9, at Delmonico's.

Next Thursday afternoon there will be a dress rehearsal at the Plaza Hotel of John Lyly's "Endymion," to be given on Friday night at 9 o'clock by amateurs and to be followed by dancing. The proceeds will go to the Union Settlement. Miss Emily Coe will be *Queen Elizabeth*. Others to take parts will be the Misses Dorothy Merle Smith, Mary Dows Hester, Alice Damrosch, Jeannette McAlpin, Mary Chapman Edgar, Lydia Butler and Beatrix Buel Stryker.

A dinner dance will be given at Delmonico's on December 31 by the Young Ladies and Gentlemen's League of the Hospital for Deformities and Joint Diseases. There will be dancing both before and after the dinner, which takes place at midnight. Many novel features will be provided during the evening.

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Black Caracul	12.50	6.25 & 9.50
Black Wolf	12.50	12.50
Natural Raccoon	16.50 & 22.50	15.00 & 19.50

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