

# RUDOLPH GANZ AS MUSICAL EDITOR

Pianist Making Set of Records Which He Thinks Will Have Distinct Educational Value—Demand for Bach—Editing Beethoven and Brahms Sonatas for Piano and Violin—Attitude Toward American Compositions

By HARRIETTE BROWER

"It has been a full season," remarked Rudolph Ganz, the distinguished composer, pianist and teacher, in the course of a recent conversation. "Although filling occasional concert engagements, this has been my 'teaching year,' and I have given a great many lessons, both privately and at the Institute of Musical Art. Next season will be a 'concert year,' as I shall be on tour a good part of the time."

Besides teaching, playing and composing, Mr. Ganz has taken up a new line of activity, in which he is greatly interested. He has signed a five-year contract with the Pathé Phonograph Company, and will make a complete set of records for it.

"The idea is of genuine educational value," said the artist. "I feel the accomplishment of it will have wide influence among young students and teachers who live at a distance from musical centers. The records of the 'Educational Series,' as they will be called, will embrace much of standard playing and teaching literature. There will be the complete set of Bach's Two and Three Part Inventions. Students play a few of these, but are not familiar with them all, as a rule. Now they will have each set entire. It is my intention to include some Preludes and Fugues from the 'Well Tempered Clavichord,' some of the Beethoven Sonatas and a few of the Mendelssohn 'Songs Without Words,' that is to say, the representative ones, like the Duetto, Hunting, Spinning and Spring Songs. Of course, we will have some Chopin, Schumann and Liszt. I shall also include some of the Cramer and Clementi Etudes, for I use them in my teaching and recommend them to students and teachers.

"By means of the phonograph I can give the idea of tempo, nuance and interpretation, but cannot convey the idea of the piano tone quality, for that is not possible on the phonograph.

### Explanatory Booklets

"For each composition played I shall prepare a little pamphlet, explaining how the piece is to be studied, with rules for practice and so on. In this way the work will be truly educational.

"You can see that all this is taking much of my time at present. Not only must the music be prepared and played but edited and corrected afterward. The

Pathé people think I am very business-like, for I am ready to begin my work as early as half-past nine in the morning. It does not always work out well. The other day I was pleased with the playing, all seemed to go satisfactorily; but alas, through some little defect in the wax, the work had to be all done over again."

"Do you think there will be a demand



Photo by Mishkin  
Rudolph Ganz, the Eminent Swiss Pianist

for the whole set of the Bach Inventions?" I asked.

### Improved Tastes

"I have not doubt of it. I find the taste of students and players in this country has changed greatly during the last fifteen years. Pupils who come to me now do not expect to be fed on the Liszt Rhapsodies and brilliant compositions of that caliber. They seem anxious to study more serious music, especially

Bach. They say: 'If you approve, Mr. Ganz, we should like to work on Bach, Beethoven, Schumann and then some modern compositions.' Which proves they really desire to study the best.

"Another piece of work I have on hand is the editing of the entire set of Beethoven's Sonatas, for piano and violin. This is to be done in conjunction with Leopold Auer, who will edit the violin parts. He has already completed his share of the work. I shall phrase and finger the piano parts. In the matter of fingering I prefer simplicity—not to make the passage more difficult by constantly shifting fingers, but easier, by simpler means. Some of my fingerings may surprise you; they may seem to revert to the older and more classic ways, but I feel the performer will gain by it.

"I shall also perform the same service for the Brahms Sonatas in connection with Theodore Spiering. These works will be issued by Carl Fischer."

### American Compositions

"Do you intend to place any compositions by American composers on your programs for next season?"

"Yes; for one thing I shall play the MacDowell 'Eroica.' I like the 'Tragica' just as well, but the 'Eroica' is not heard so often. The art of composition is being assiduously cultivated in America; your composers are doing some excellent work. As you know, I am always on the lookout for new things. I came to this country in 1900. And the very next season, in 1901, at one of my recitals, I placed several pieces by American composers on the program. Among them were Sherwood's 'Exhilaration' and two pieces by MacDowell. I was looking over some compositions the other day which a young composer, Charles Griffes by name, had brought me. I found them both interesting and beautiful. He goes his own way, though in style and workmanship his pieces are somewhat along the lines of Schönberg and Ravel. I showed them to Paderewski, who was much pleased with them."

"And so the most of next season you will be on tour; is it not a pleasant prospect?" I asked.

"Well, yes, I do look forward with pleasure to the work, though I certainly do not enjoy the constant traveling. A great many concerts and recitals are already booked and others are pending. I shall have another busy season."

paring not only programs for his own recitals but also those in which he will appear as accompanist for Mme. Povla Frisch and Pablo Casals. Another Pease artists who will have a busy vacation time here is the American violinist, Roderick White. He is now in Michigan filling several engagements there with musical clubs during this month.

### NEW MASS SUNG

Pittsburgh Bandmaster's Composition Given Interesting Performance

PITTSBURGH, June 26.—An event of interest, because of the popularity of John S. Duss, the veteran bandmaster, was the performance last week of a mass by him dedicated to St. Veronica Catholic Church at Ambridge, Pa., Mr. Duss conducting. This was preceded by a program of the works of Mr. Duss and of Ethelbert Nevin, presented by the choir of St. Veronica's congregation, augmented to forty voices, with George H. Foster at the organ, assisted by a group of instrumentalists from Pittsburgh and a number of soloists.

Delegations attended from this city,

Sewickley and Beaver. The mass began with the "Kyrie" and continued through the "Christe Eleison" to the "Gloria in Excelsis," the music being accorded interested attention. The Rev. J. S. Martin spoke between the two parts of the program on "Appreciation of Music."

The soprano parts of the work, in most part, were sung by Vera Duss, the composer's daughter, and the other soloists included Dorothy Foster and Josephine Bayer, sopranos; Edna McCormick and Mrs. Ryan, contraltos; Henry Foster and George Reed, tenors, and George Gilbert and E. Selway, basses.

Among the most prominent recitals during the week were those of Zoe Fulton at the Carnegie Institute Lecture Hall; C. S. Nielsen at the Conservatory of Music and of Reese R. Reese's pupils at the William Penn Hotel. The Brighton Choral Society gave a musicale last week, among the offerings being "The Song of the Vikings," "Soldiers' Chorus," "The Heavens are Telling" and others.

E. C. S.

### UTICA CLUB MAKES PLANS

Will Celebrate Tenth Anniversary—Membership Raised

UTICA, N. Y., June 26.—The growth of the B Sharp Musical Club of Utica has merited the attention of music-lovers here and elsewhere. This will be the tenth year since the reorganization, when there were but 150 associate members. So that the club might extend its scope it was decided to increase the membership to 1000 associate members. Without any effort that number has been early reached, and at an important business meeting held recently at the home of

Gertrude Curran, it was decided to raise the number again, to 1200.

Beside the regular seven afternoon concerts of the club this year, it was decided to give two evening concerts at the Academy auditorium. Permission for this was granted by the School Board. There will be the three chamber music recitals and also one by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in May. This orchestral concert will mark the close of the anniversary year, and following the concert the members of the club will hold a reception. The active membership is still limited to eighty-five members, who give the club programs and transact the business of the organization.

The first concert in November will be by Anna Case and Theo Karl. The next will be by Percy Grainger. The appearance of George Barrère, the flautist, and his little orchestra is looked forward to with interest. The last concert will be that of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

### MAY PETERSON'S MUSICALE

Soprano Sings for Summer Colony at Seabright, N. J.

May Peterson, the American prima donna, was the principal artist at a musicale given at Seabright, N. J., on Friday, June 16. Miss Peterson was entertained by Mrs. John Jay Knox at her home there for the week-end. After the concert a luncheon was given in her honor at the home of Mrs. Ida Barrows, which was attended by leading members of the Seabright colony, including Mrs. John Jay Knox, Mrs. William Barbour, Mrs. Henry Borden, Mrs. Irving Knox, Mrs. Thomas Clark and Mrs. Herbert Straus. Among the guests at a tea given for Miss Peterson by Mrs. Renil Kimball were Mrs. Irene Stoddard and Yvonne de Tréville.

Edouard Deru was the violinist on the program with Miss Peterson and Francis Moore was her accompanist. Among the numbers sang by Miss Peterson were "L'Absence," by Berlioz; "Depuis le jour" ("Louise"), by Charpentier, and as an encore, by request, "The Lass with a Delicate Air," with her own accompaniment.

Plan Society for Giving Operatic Music in York, Pa.

YORK, PA., June 24.—Prominent soloists of this city participated in a musical program last Wednesday evening at the home of Mrs. Harry Read, with the purpose to form a society in this city for the performance of operatic music. Mrs. James Maxwell Rogers was in charge of the evening's program. In excerpts from "Il Trovatore" the following was the cast of characters: *Leonora*, Lillian Ring; *Azucena*, Mrs. Ellis Smyser Lewis; *Manrico*, George T. Hanning and William H. Eckenrode; *Conte di Luna*, Douglas Read. The following took part in the evening's program:

Mrs. Ellis Smyser Lewis, Lillian Ring, Blanche Oberdick, Mrs. Louise Smith, Eleanor Hetrick, George T. Hanning, William H. Eckenrode, Douglas Read, Mary Haines Taylor, Henrietta Owen Wiest, Annie Anstadt, Frances Greenwalt, Harold Jackson Bartz.  
G. A. Q.

Pasquale Amato will be the first attraction in the Central Concert Company's course in Detroit. Half the seats in the large Arcadia auditorium have already been sold out for this concert.

### POVLA FRISCH'S DEPARTURE

Singer Sails for French Visit—Plans of Pease Artists

Mme. Povla Frisch, soprano, sailed Saturday, June 24, on the Lafayette for France, where she will spend the summer preparing programs for her tour of the United States next season. Mme. Frisch is under the exclusive management of Florence L. Pease and many concert engagements have already been booked for her for the season of 1916-17.

Some of the Pease artists who will remain in this country for the summer are Oscar Seagle, who is conducting a large vocal class at his camp at Schroon Lake in the Adirondacks; Lucy Gates, who, with her own opera company, has been singing to sold out houses in Utah; Winifred Christie, at present just beginning a series of pianoforte recitals on the Pacific Coast; Charles Cooper, to appear as pianist in twelve concerts to be given in the Catskills and also to be at work in that vicinity on his programs for next season; Esther Dale, the popular New England soprano, spending the summer at Townshend, Vt., and Jean Verd, who is to be at Redding Ridge, Conn., pre-

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