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WITH FERRUCCIO BUSONI.
By Maz Oltzki.

According to Vienna reports, the famous pianist Ferruccio Busoni, who last year succeeded Professor Emil Sauer as the leader of the master-school for piano playing at the Vienna Conservatory, has broken his contract. We hear from an authoritative source that his successor will be Professor Leopold Godowski, but this information has yet to be officially confirmed.

The eminent pianist was kind enough to grant the *Daily Record's* correspondent an interview, from which a clear understanding of the facts that have culminated in this sensational report may be gleaned. To anyone fortunate enough to be acquainted with Professor Busoni the earnest and conscientious manner in which he fulfils his duties, and the love he bears his art, are well known. The highest artistic demands are made upon him, demands which he never fails to satisfy in the most ideal way; but he expects an equal devotion to art on the part of his pupils, who not only revere him as the greatest exponent of the art of pianoforte playing, but practically adore him. It would not be surprising if all his pupils at the Viennese Conservatory conjointly send an address of protest to the Conservatory authorities, who, when engaging the master, promised him the utmost leniency, not only orally, but also in writing.

"Have you actually broken your contract?" asked our representative.

"Well, I am accused of having done so in a letter which the Conservatory management have just sent me, a communication which has greatly surprised me. But, first of all I must give you the reasons which have prompted these gentlemen to answer my letter of the 10th inst. in such a manner. Now, listen! At the beginning of this month I had to again teach in Vienna, and had also arranged to give a concert there. Both these arrangements, however, I had to give up on account of indisposition. Since my contract stipulates that I am to be granted two months' leave, I wrote to the management informing them that I had been taken ill, and that under the circumstances it was impossible for me to go to Vienna. I also said that I would devote the following weeks to recruiting my health, and would consider such absence as constituting my stipulated leave of absence, and that I could not return to Vienna before April 21st. I stated explicitly that I should consider myself under the obligation of teaching uninterruptedly from that date until July, thus making up for the lost time."

"Was your leave fixed to take effect at any certain date, Professor?"

"Not at all. That was left entirely to my own discretion; I could arrange my time in accordance with my own wishes, and the management left everything to my personal judgment. In fact, it was only under these conditions that I accepted the professorship in the first place, as you know how much of my time is taken up in concert touring. My letter which I sent to Vienna on the 10th inst. was a perfectly innocent communication, and was written under the impression that everything was quite in order. Judge, then, of my astonishment on February 24th when I received a letter from the management informing me that they regarded my communication as a breach of the contract concluded with me on April 19th, 1907, and that my salary, would, in consequence, cease."

"But what do you intend to do now, Professor Busoni?"

"Well, I shall have to let matters take their own course; but I may tell you that I intend to appear at the Vienna Conservatory on the 21st of April

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DRESDEN

The Right Reverend Bishop Wilkinson arrived in Dresden early yesterday morning and proceeded to the Grand Union Hotel, where he will remain till Thursday. He will preach in All Saints' church at the 11 o'clock service this morning, and hold a Confirmation in the same church at 6 o'clock this evening. The sittings in the church at the latter service are open to all, excepting those that are necessarily reserved for the candidates and their friends.

The Song and Duet Recital by Luise Ottermann and Doris Walde, which a week or two ago had to be postponed in consequence of Fräulein Ottermann having caught a cold, took place on Friday last at the Vereinshaus.

Fräulein Ottermann had obviously benefited from the rest, and her performance was of such an impressive nature as we have never previously been privileged to enjoy from this excellent artiste. Of the numbers sung by Fräulein Ottermann those most finely rendered were the two songs by the Viennese composer Theodor Streicher, who has only lately become known to the general public. The first, *O harte Sterne*, in particular excels by its surprisingly delicate modulation and noble, mellifluous melody. But the songs by Brahms and Draeseke, in the singing of which Fräulein Ottermann had an opportunity of displaying her depth of feeling and strong temperament, were no less effective; and when she joined her highly gifted pupil, Fräulein Doris Walde, in duet singing, the listeners experienced the purest artistic pleasure. The two voices blended admirably, and with a uniformity that was delightful.

As a concert singer Fräulein Walde is, unfortunately, far too little known, but she is gaining ground, and to all appearances will be heard of a good deal in the future. Her charming girlish soprano, distinguished by its silvery lustre, is so magnificently trained that the singer overcomes all technical difficulties with perfect facility; whatever songs she renders, under the winsome spell of her fascinating art, breathe the refreshing fragrance of a day in May.

The audience, who had appeared in large numbers, rewarded both artistes with cordial applause for the exquisite enjoyment afforded by them. Herr Karl Pretzsch acquitted himself of his—in this instance—pleasant task with his usual taste and skill.

M. N

The programme of Herr Wilhelm Backhaus' pianoforte recital at the Vereinshaus on the 10th of March will be as follows:—Bach's Chromatic Fantasia. Beethoven's "Moonlight," Sonata. Brahms' Paganini Variations. Chopin: Etude in C, Nocturne in C-minor, Berceuse, Waltz in A-flat, Impromptu in F-sharp, Ballade in A-flat. Liszt's Liebestraum No. 3 in A-flat and La Campanella.

The Grand Duke of Hesse has just conferred upon Herr Wilhelm Backhaus the distinction of the Ritterkreuz I. Class of the Order of Merit of *Philipp der Grossmütige*.

Today, Sunday, at 8 o'clock, a Schumann evening in the Johannes-Kirche with the Requiem of Robert Schumann as the principal work. The Soloists engaged are: Fräulein Kreisler, Frau Bächli-Fährmann, Hofopernsänger Grosch, and Victor Porth. Tickets can be obtained up to 2 o'clock at the Johannes-Drogerie, or in the evening at the Church.

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