

Miss Given's Career.

Miss Thelma Given, violinist of international fame, was born in Columbus, O., of Welsh descent, there is behind her personal charm and command of technique, the richly melancholy spirit of the Kelts, a people almost mystically conscious of the beauty and tragedy in life.

Taking to the violin as a child, she had an audition in Chicago when she was ten years old. Then she was taken to Russia by her mother, and there the great master Leopold Auer was attracted by her. He saw in her something more than in the average gifted pupil, and took her to study under him.

Her girlhood days as a student was spent in Russia. She was there until she was seventeen, studying under Auer in Petrograd. Then he took her on tour, and she appeared in recital in all the important music centers of Europe, under his personal direction. He later brought her to this country and in her debut in New York City she gained for herself, while still in her 'teens, a reputation which established her.

She made an auspicious entry into the European

concert fields, playing in Paris, Vienna, Cologne, Geneva, Milan, Oslo, Copenhagen, Prague and The Hague. In Cologne she was acclaimed among the foremost of all the front-rank violinists. She also played with most of the leading symphony orchestras of Europe.

While in Russia she attended a ball when she was 14 years old at which were present many of the most brilliant men and women of old Russian aristocracy. She was escorted by an attache of the United States Embassy. Beautiful women, flashing with diamonds, stood about. Cossacks impressive size in red uniforms lined the stairway. Then came a contrast.

The Russian revolution had broken out. Miss Given and her mother were forced to remain in their hotel building four months. Food was conspicuously lacking and black bread became a luxury. Main items of diet were dried fish and a substance similar to a cooked breakfast cereal.

Unable to leave the country, Miss Given was forced to remain there a year. Then she and her mother were aided to escape by an officer of the old regime who had turned revolutionist. They made their way to Finland and there bribed a peasant to drive them across the

treacherous ice of the river between Finland and Sweden.

Once in Sweden, they toured that country, and later Norway. Miss Givon was about to make a concert tour of Denmark when she had an accident tobogganing on an icy mountain. After recovering, she came with her mother to America and in the company of the great Auer, who shortly afterwards introduced her in a New York debut, as "One of my greatest teaching triumphs", - and predicted that she would stand unequalled as "The Greatest Woman Violinist of all times".

Miss Given's Violin.

Miss Thelma Given, distinguished woman violinist, plays on a historic Guarnerius, which she has had ten years.

The almost priceless instrument was purchased by her grandfather. It was made by the great Joseph Guarnerius, who fashioned it in 1738 in Cremona, Italy. Guarnerius named it "The Fountain". All his instruments were named by himself.

"The Fountain's history is most interesting and includes, according to documents which were with it when Miss Given's grandfather purchased it, a French revolution incident. It was smuggled out of Paris to Versailles, wrapped in a blanket so that it appeared to be a closely banded baby.

This world famous violin is valued at Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) is considered the finest example of "The Great Joseph", as Guarnerius is known, and, was made by him in the year 1738.

Miss Given internationally famous Violinist
the only girl, and the only American pupil of Leopold Auer
who took both Europe and the United States by storm, and
whose brilliant career added laurels to the crown of that
greatest of all teachers of the violin. Heifetz, Elman,
Zimbalist and Given -- it is the achievements of this
quartet of violin virtuosos that have made immortal the
name of their beloved teacher and guide, Auer.

Always an ardent sportswoman, as much at home
in the African jungles as at St. Moritz, Miss Given met
with a serious accident while skiing in Norway four
years ago, as a result of which her career was interrupted
for a considerable time. But all that has been forgotten
now, and she has resumed her concert work with an enthusiasm
and zest even greater than before, as refreshing as it is
unusual to encounter. Slender and graceful, with dark,
sparkling eyes, a headful of shiny black curls that bob
hither and thither as she waxes ecstatic over some mirth-
provoking incident, her keen appetite for life and all
that makes it joyous and beautiful has only been whetted
because for a time she longed for it in vain. She is very
clothes conscious, but never to the point of wearing some-
thing unbecoming simply because it is smart. Like
Mrs. Harrison Williams, the world's best dressed woman, she

has a penchant for white, which is very flattering to her dark, exotic coloring.

Though a master of technique, her playing, even when she made her New York debut as a youngster of sixteen before a tumultuous audience at Carnegie Hall, was not likened to Maud Powell, the only other American woman violinist to win world acclaim, but rather to Elman because of her emotional intensity and dramatic interpretations. This has grown and developed, despite the fact that, unlike Elman, she has no Slavic blood, but is of Welsh extraction. Not only a great artist but a great personality of whom the foremost critics in the world have said "Here at last is a violin phenomenon "a girl standing shoulder to shoulder with the great men violinists of the world".

Miss Given, Rhapsodist of the Violin

Miss Thelma Given, one of the few women violinists and an outstanding one, has an ability to carry her audiences into a world of her own creation, and she has won acclaim throughout the world.

Her understanding soars above mere interpretation. She really picks up the original inspiration of the composer, and her interpretations at times of a single measure has more colorful poetic appeal than often is heard in an entire concert.

She is an adept technician, and her program runs the gauntlet of difficult technic. Possessed of amazing resources, her tone color and conception of form, the externals of all great interpretation, she penetrates beyond into the profound necessities of the spirit which are to be satisfied only through the medium of music by turns tender, passionate, almost brutal. She probes to the very core of that which she is playing, and extracts from it essential truth. It is that quality of intense beauty and understanding which has earned for her the title of "Rhapsodist of the violin."

There is vitality of tone and expression in her technical equipment, a tone of size and resonance, as

remarkable for its purity as for its penetration and its warmth. It is a thoroughly vital tone, and her fine command of her bow enables her to fill it with color, rich and varied. That vitality imparts tense interest in her performance.

With the warmth of her interpretation there is a sure and formidable command, which makes her dramatic expression eloquent.

There are temperamental pulses in each stroke of her playing. Her technique at times is actually rippling. It has been said she was gifted with an interpretive fire and fantasy. Her lower register produces vibrant, full throated notes that are almost vocal in their quality. With her high pitch there is the finest clarity.

While one of the foremost living violinists, Miss Given has a rare personality and modest sincerity, together with rare personal magnetism. Tall, dark and sparkling in appearance, when she takes up her violin she has perfect command.
