

From: Haensel & Jones,
Aeolian Hall, N. Y.

FROM SOME OF THE CITIES ON

BRIEF ~~EXCERPTS~~ EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESS NOTICES OF THELMA GIVEN'S TOUR
OF THE SOUTHWEST IN JANUARY 1921.

"MISS GIVEN HOLDS HER AUDIENCE SPELLBOUND" (heading)

"From the first phrase of the 'Chaconne' to the 'Last Rose of Summer', the final number, Miss Given held her auditors spellbound.

"There is something about Miss Given's playing that grips the interest of the auditor and will not let go until she has finished; something that makes one long for her to keep the resilient bow moving. Her technique is wonderful; the ease, grace and verve with which she accomplished the difficult passages of the Grieg Sonata, and the depth which she so artistically expresses with her marvelous tone are things that are hard to believe and seldom heard. Miss Given draws a broad, sonorous tone. Her intonation possesses fire, speed and winning control. Color, sweetness and tenderness are also dominant qualities." Guthrie, Oklahoma, Leader, Jan. 8, 1921.

"THELMA GIVEN IS SUCCESS IN CONCERT" (heading)

"Thelma Given proved a brilliant violinist. Wonderful technic and marvelous singing tone was evident throughout. Immediately she became interesting.

"Miss Given's rendition of the Grieg Sonata was a display of brilliant technic combined with a singing tone that wended its way into instant favor. She played Scandinavian songs and weird Russian things with the same dexterous ease. She was forced to respond with an encore after her third group. The applause amounted to an ovation." - Fort Worth, Texas, Record, Jan. 12, 1921.

"THELMA GIVEN IS WARMLY APPLAUDED." (heading)

"An unusually enthusiastic audience welcomed Thelma Given in recital. Thursday evening.

"Each number on the program was warmly applauded and the audience showed plainly their appreciation of the superior talent of Miss Given.

"She plays with soul and has an unusual technic, one of the best Austin musicians was heard to say, and to this might be added that there was so much color in her phrasing that it gave special charm and interest to the whole program." - Austin, Texas, American, Jan. 14, 1921.

"THELMA GIVEN PROVES HIT" (heading)

"Thelma Given scored a triumph in her concert, Monday night.

"The expert handling by Miss Given of the numbers which comprised her well-balanced program showed that the fame which she has won as one of the most talented pupils of Leopold Auer was entirely justified.

"The instrument seemed almost to have the qualities of the human voice under her touch, every note cried out with feeling.

"The technical difficulties were overcome in a way that demonstrated the skill of the ~~violinist~~ violinist and disclosed immediately to the audience a complete mastery and expert handling of the bow." - San Antonio, Texas, Light, Jan. 18, 1921.

"MISS GIVEN SHOWS UNUSUAL ARTISTRY" (heading)

"Miss Given is an artist of distinct personality. Possessing a beautiful singing tone of sweeping breadth, she is endowed with a technic that meets every demand. No tempo was so rushing or technical problems so great as to cloud the purity and ~~breath~~ beauty of her intonation, while abundant temperamental fire, without shallow emotionalism, gave satisfaction to those who

~~feel a lack in the formally intellectual type of violinist.~~ Miss Given presented a most commendably chosen program and one which brought out the masterly qualities of her art. ~~None of the numbers were hackneyed.~~ The plaintive beauty of the Grieg sonata emphasized all of the witchery of the young artist, the exquisite enchantment of her pianissimo tones and the gripping quality of her lower tonal resources. The sonata is a superb composition and Miss Given was thoroughly imbued with its appealing and poignantly wild beauty. It won from the audience the highest commendation of the evening." - San Antonio, Texas, Express, Jan. 18, 1921.

"THELMA GIVEN IN RECITAL" (heading)

"Thelma Given is rightly named - she is a true rhapsodist. She is furthermore a type, she is a vital, a live personality, she is a gypsy - one sees broad open spaces and feels the wind blowing free as she plays. And such playing! - such technique! - Youth and youth's fire are hers.

"She conquers by the sheer artistry of her playing. She is serious, masterly and accurate, never sentimental, but her playing possesses the daintiness, the piquancy that only a woman could employ.

"Her tones are rich, full and sweet, particularly in the lower register. Her high tones are whispers, but whispers that are clear and far reaching.

"Miss Given's interpretation of Grieg's Sonata was marvelous. A thing of moods, she met each one perfectly - a tremulous whispering characterized the tones in the first movement - a quality which reminds of Kreisler. To the piece she brought fine dramatic feeling and color.

"She brings to her work a sweet graciousness and naivete that has an irresistible appeal." - Abilene, Texas, Record, Jan. 20, 1921.

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Mar. 4, 1924.

Associated Artists Bureau,
766 Gas & Elec. Bldg.,
Denver, Colorado.

Gentlemen:

I am enclosing herewith paper clipping
on the Thelma Given concert yesterday.

Miss Given is a real artist. She carried
her audience with her into realms of beauty. During
the rendition of the "Sonata", although rather long
and the audience consisting of a great many young
people, still one could hear a pin drop during the
intervals of silence. She has a very pleasing
personality and really charmed us. Every-one who
heard her I am sure would be delighted to hear her
again. The work of her accompanist was excellent.

Respectfully yours,

Collegiate Music League,

By *James E. Haslam*
Mgr.

From: Press Representative,
Haensel & Jones, Steinway Hall, N. Y.

THELMA GIVEN APPEARS IN RECITAL AT EVANSVILLE, IND., ON DECEMBER 1, 1927.

"She displayed a legato that was above criticism. Too, she first demonstrated the superb bowing and the fervor that marked her selections throughout the program. The last of the groups carried her to the height of her entire program." - Evansville, Ind., Daily, Dec. 2, 1927.

"She played with a wonderful tenderness that marks her as a woman and with a finish that marks her as a pupil of Auer, the grand old man of the violin. Strong bowing, fine flexibility, and breadth and depth of tone were the outstanding characteristics which this artist displayed." - Evansville, Ind., Courier, Dec. 2, 1927.

"Thelma Given added to her admirers as a result of her demonstration of mastery of the violin. Long and hard study together with an understanding of the human emotions was exemplified in her technique." - Evansville, Ind., Journal, Dec. 2, 1927.

TRANSLATION

FROM German

New York Staatszeitung, den 21 Fe

Thelma Given

Rather rarely does one see women violinists on the concert stage, whereas the sex appears to devote itself to the piano with the highest attainments.

Miss Thelma Given is a violin sprite whose musical talent points to the violin. She would certainly serve as a decorative grace with any instrument for she may be called one of the most beautiful artists before the public. It is only a pity that that charming and interesting face is usually set in such serious lines. However, upon the applause from the audience a gracious smile flits over these intelligent features and it is then as though a ray of sunshine had fallen on a beautiful landscape. In collaboration with Mr. Haageman at the piano who is a master of his art the beautiful artiste gave a subtly developed and extremely intelligent rendition of Cesar Franck's beautiful sonata, dedicated to Eugene Ysaeye. It was a highly artistic duet, which justly awoke a great echo from the audience. With wonderfully rounded contelane and with sufficient poetical unfoldment the lady played Tschaikowsky - Auer's well known aria from the opera "Eugene Onegin". It was very pleasant to see that she took up the charming composition of the meritorious blind violinist, Mr. Edwin Grasse, who is not appreciated as fully as he should be here in his own country.

TRANSLATION

FROM

-2-

She lifted the "Waves of Play" to a real pearl of expression. In Poppers "Elfentanz" (Dance of the Elves) she displayed her remarkably brilliant technique to the most wonderful expression.

Miss Given had to give many encores. Her appearance and her art again made a deep impression on her audience. Miss Given - an Auer pupil, is a very talented and capable violinist who reveals all the good points of the famous school from which she emanates. Her straight, clear bow movement, the certainty of her intonation, the emotion of tone and this finely finished technique would have still greater effect if her earnestness were slightly softened by emotion and poetry. Could it be possible that such a sweet young lady has never experienced that Divine emotion which inspires a great soul and adds life and temperament to her art? If not then we shall await this great happening with patience and with the addition of arousing temperament, verve and "Diablerie" her beautiful and solid playing would be still more effectful.

The artist showed us last night at Carnegie Hall the reproduction of Vitali's Chaconne when not a strong temperament and feeling, then something just as good, namely a dramatically vibrant tone and a fine classical "Abgeklaertheit"

TRANSLATION

FROM

1.

Thelma Given's Program

The violin recital of Thelma Given will be given at Carnegie Hall on Monday evening, February 18.

The well known violinist will appear in a program of Monushka, Mozena, Debussy, Karlowitsh, Strauss, Tosti, La Farge and Puccini.

Thelma Given is a great artist and one of her recitals always creates an interest in circles which are interested and love music.

*mailed
3/20/24*

*Majeski
att. M. Gagnon
Bauer*

From: Milton Douthat, Press Representative,
Haensel & Jones, Aeolian Hall, N. Y.

LARAMIE WANTS TO GIVE

LARAMIE

LARAMIE INVITES THE LMA GIVEN BACK

Wyoming

A letter received from the University of ~~Wyo.~~ where Thelma Given played recently, reads in part as follows: "Not the least of Miss Given's success is due to her personal charm both on and off stage, and this rare charm combined with her artistic ability as a violinist made the perfect combination which pleased her Laramie audience so greatly. We hope ~~Miss Given~~ ^{she} can come to us again and soon."

PHILADELPHIA

"Thelma Given is a phenomenon,-- one of the violinists not to be accounted for by any course of training. The audience she faced yesterday at the Academy was not prepared for a personality so ardent and so forceful as that to which her violin gave soulful expression. For her temperament burns and soars as though it must find a skyward outlet. Though her face is immobile and reposeful as she plays, her being is not, and like a Maenad whom the divine fire possesses, she pushes the violin to the very bounds of its capacity to make it say what she would like to have it say. One feels first of all the impetuous drive and fire and mettle of her playing. She might like to lead a cavalry charge -- she might like to redeem Russia -- but she plays the violin, and into the violin she releases her racial consciousness, and there she finds the wings of aspiration." -- Philadelphia Public Ledger.

CHICAGO

"A warmth of interpretation and a sure and formidable mechanical command." -- Chicago Daily News.

"A young violinist with personality, of great talent and deep feeling." -- Chicago Examiner.

"Prove the young player the possessor of a high degree of technical command of her instrument, gifted with interpretive fire and fantasy, and excellent musical taste." -- Chicago Tribune.

"An excellent performance, one that had imagination, contrast, light and shade and persuasive emotion." -- Chicago Journal.

master
11/15/33

Majeski ✓
Att. Mr. Bogot
Bauer

From: Press Representative,
Haensel & Jones, Aeolian Hall, N. Y.

CAPACITY HOUSE FOR GIVEN IN LEWISBURG

On November 12, Thelma Given appeared for the second time at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pa. After her very successful performance there, her managers were in receipt of a laudatory letter from the college musical authorities that in part read as follows:

"Thelma Given performed to a capacity house last night. She is without doubt a most wonderful violinist. There is just ~~one~~ criticism to make and that is the fact that she stopped playing all too soon. It seemed as if she had only been playing five minutes when her playing was over. She held the audience spellbound."

Letter received re Thelma Given, Violinist,
Tucson, Arizona, January 30, 1933.

"Dear Miss Little:

I cannot refrain from telling you what a great artist Thelma Given is. She played at our Temple of Music, Friday evening, January 27th. Her concert was a grand success. She is as fine as any artist I have heard, with thorough understanding of her instrument-- a deep knowledge of her art -- a tone that is glorious -- both in her fortissimos and pianissimos always up to tempo. She is a gorgeous figure on the stage -- well gowned and a million dollar personality. What more can I say? She has programs to offer comparable with Heifetz, Elman, Spaulding, and the like. You will never regret booking Thelma Given, as she is quite the outstanding woman violinist in our country."

Mrs. Harry Berger, Manager of the
oldest and best Artist Series in
Arizona.

THELMA GIVEN

THELMA GIVEN, one of the most phenomenal of the successful group of violinists from the conservatory of Prof. Leopold Auer, the great Russian pedagogue, ~~has the distinction of being~~ ^{is by far} his most famous American woman pupil, and ~~further, of being the only pupil ever accepted by him~~ without previous training.

Miss Given was born in Columbus, Ohio, ~~1889~~, and brought up in the Middle West. As a child of five she played the violin by ear and when she was fifteen

years of age, her mother took her to Europe on the advice of musicians to seek an interview with Auer. The master met Miss Given at Contrexeville, France, and immediately accepted her as a pupil. Thereafter for six years Miss Given studied with her teacher in various countries of Europe, though most of her time was spent in Petrograd. She went through ~~a~~ harrowing experience at the time of the revolution which overthrew the Czar, but succeeded in leaving the stricken country before the advent of the Bolsheviki.

After a successful concert tour of the Scandinavian countries, Miss Given returned to America in the spring of 1918 with Prof. Auer and Toscha Seidel. She continued her studies during the summer at Lake George, perfecting the program for her debut which occurred at Carnegie Hall, November 3rd, at which one critic declared: "Miss Given strode to the forefront of the youthful Auer company."

Perhaps the dominant characteristic of this remarkable artist's ~~talent~~ ^{playing} is her tone, extraordinarily rich, sonorous and colorful, albeit it contains an individual note of tenderness and emotional feeling ~~absent~~.

absent in the playing of most men virtuosi.

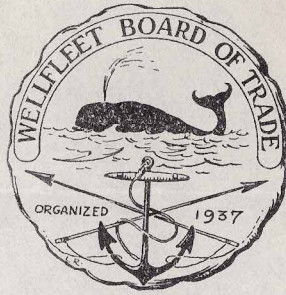
Since her introduction to the American public she has toured the United States several times with ~~what~~ great success ^{as} may be seen from the press comments which follow. She has made four reappearances ^{at} Carnegie Hall, ^{N.Y.} the scene of her original American successes.

absent in the playing of

THELMA GIVEN.

Ganz stilvoll, mit möglichst wenig vorheriger Besprechung, tauchte diese junge amerikanische Violinistin aus dem Unbekannten auf und gab gestern abend ein Konzert im Sal des Konservatoriums. Um so angenehmer überrascht war man, ein wohl nicht hervorragendes, aber schönes Talent zu finden; und je länger man ihrem Spiel zuhörte, um so mehr wurde der erste Eindruck sicherer Tüchtigkeit erhöht, mit der Auffassung, dass Miss Thelma Given auch viel auf dem Herzen hatte. Im ersten Satz von Cesar Francks Sonate - mit Gunner Johansen am Klavier - war gleichsam eine Kleinigkeit oberflächlicher Salon-Eleganz, doch kam hernach mehr Festigkeit und Haltung und schliesslich eine temperamentvolle Hingabe im musikalischen Ausdruck, nicht zum mindesten in Chaussons Poem, einer Legende von Rahæwes und ein paar Kreisler-Bearbeitungen, wo die Wiedergaben von ruhiger und klarer Plastik geprägt waren.

WELLFLEET BOARD OF TRADE



WELLFLEET, MASS.

MISS THELMA GIVEN

One of the writers who used to summer at Truro, John Reed, wrote a book entitled "Ten Days That Shook the World", in which he pictured those ten terrible days of the great Russian revolution. One of those whom we honor tonight, lived those ten days right in the heart of Petrograd. Set down, a child, amidst the horror and suffering that was Petrograd in those dark days, playing her violin and studying earnestly when she had barely enough to eat, when black bread and thin soup were luxuries, often nearly shot down, at last persuading an officer of the old regime who had turned revolutionist to help her escape from the city, then bribing a peasant to drive her and her mother across Karelia, into the north, across frozen rivers and lakes and into neutral Scandinavia.

That is only part of the background of our guest, an American girl then in her teens. Even the safety of Sweden meant only continued hard work, day in and day out, sometimes for as long as ten hours out of the twenty-four. She had studied under the great Leopold Auer, the greatest of all violin teachers, the teacher of Heifitz, of Elman, indeed of all the great violinists. After years of practice and study the day came when Auer said, simply, "You are ready!" and then she began playing in public, before the critical audiences of the musical capital of Europe. Her first tour was a triumph. She added lustre to the name of her teacher. Vienna, the Hague, Copenhagen, Paris, Oslo, Milan, Prague, all acclaimed her as the great artist that she truly is.

When home with her laurels and for her American bow before that most critical of audiences, Carnegie Hall in New York. Again it was a triumph, not only did her audience acclaim her, but the critics went out into the streets praising her virtuosity. Pitts Sanborn wrote: "The gods planted fire in her breast and every tone she draws from her fiddle is warm and vital. She plays rhapsodically, as a poet responding to a poet." and James Gibbons Huneker, then the dean of all critics announced her as "the first great American violinist."

Last summer while on a triumphal tour of the West Coast she received the heart-breaking news that her mother had suffered a severe accident. She placed her violin in its case, cancelled her tour and caught a plane east where she took up the job as nurse. All of us are happy to know that her mother is on the road to recovery and that in the very near future that violin will be taken from its case and once again under her skillful hands thrill her listeners.

Miss Thelma Given -- 22

Thelma Given, you who have made the world a richer place by your presence and who has brought honor to the Outer Cape, we the people of Wellfleet extend to you felicitations and honor you as one of the outstanding artists of our land.

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"Miss Given's interpretation of Grieg's Sonata was marvelous. A thing of moods, she met each one perfectly - a tremulous whispering characterized the tones in the first movement - a quality which reminds of Kreisler. To the pieces she brought fine dramatic feeling and color.

"She brings to her work a sweet graciousness and naivete that has an irresistable appeal." - Abilene, Texas, Record, Jan. 20, 1921.