

# THELMA GIVEN

*is by far*  
**T**HELMA 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~~ 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~~ is her tone, extraordinarily rich, *playing* sonorous and colorful, albeit it contains an individual note of tenderness and emotional feeling ~~capable~~

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 <sup>as</sup> may be seen from the press comments which follow. She has made four reappearances <sup>at</sup> Carnegie Hall, *N.Y.* the scene of her original American successes.

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