

# THELMA GIVEN



VIOLINIST OF A GENERATION

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THELMA GIVEN — one of the foremost living violinists, holds perhaps the most unique place among the violin virtuosos of today. Possessed of amazing resources, a magnificent technic, tone color and conception of form, the externals of all great interpretation, she penetrates beyond into those 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 this quality of intense beauty and understanding which has earned for her the title of "Rhapsodist of the violin."

Although born in America, Miss Given is of direct Welsh descent, and always behind her personal charm and command of technic broods the richly, melancholy spirit of the Celts, a people almost mystically conscious of the beauty and tragedy of life.

Thelma Given made an auspicious entry into the European concert field and later made her debut in New York City, gaining for herself while still in her 'teens a reputation which has established her as an artist of international fame. She belongs to that select group of Auer pupils, which under the great master have become the most famous artists of a generation. Her girlhood days as a student were spent in Russia. Later she appeared in recital in all the important music centres of Europe under the personal direction of Leopold Auer who later brought her to America.

Miss Given brings to the concert field tremendous personal magnetism, perfect command of the historic "Guarnerius" violin she plays and a singing tone unforgettable in its response to her emotional demands. The understanding of this artist soars above mere interpretation—recapturing the original inspiration of the composer. This ability to carry her audience into a world of her own creation has won for her the acclaim of press and public throughout the world.



## RECENT AMERICAN PRESS COMMENTS

### WHAT JAMES GIBBONS — HUNEKER-NEW YORK TIMES — SAID OF THELMA GIVEN'S RECITAL

"Thelma Given is a live wire. She made her initial bow yesterday afternoon at Carnegie Hall, and fiddled herself along the road to fame. She has marked talent. As Leopold Auer looked after her technical training, it is hardly necessary to add that she plays brilliantly. Miss Given promises to be something more than the average 'gifted pupil.' She has plenty of temperament, and she has personality. Tall, slender with a swaying figure as she plays, her face framed by inky curls, sensitive and strong features and glowing eyes. She handles her instrument like a veteran. And there is no doubt that she is, in popular parlance, a live wire. Her attack is electric, her bowing broad and free, her rhythms were reckless, and betimes she suggested a gypsy improvisatore on his native Hungarian prairie. Miss Given has been soundly grounded in mechanics. Her bow is resilient; you could hear it bite the strings from the other end of the hall. She can draw a broad, sonorous tone. Her intonation was admirable. It was her fire and speed that distinguished her work. She has all the certain quality absent in the artistic makeup of Heifetz. The Concerto by Jules Conus afforded excellent opportunity to judge of the externals at least of Miss Given's ability. Trills, double thirds, sixths, octaves, chords, harmonics, leaps and scales abound. In the higher positions the surety of the young woman is commendable. Altogether Miss Given captured her audience." — James Gibbons Hunecker in the "New York Times."

### THELMA GIVEN PLAYS AT THE ACADEMY

#### Another Remarkable Pupil of Auer Makes Philadelphia Debut With Pronounced Success

(From the Phila. Public Ledger)

Thelma Given is a phenomenon—one of the violinists not to be accounted for by any course of training even at the hands of a teacher so necromantic as Leopold Auer. A graceful stripling of a maid attired in black with a lace collar, her raven tresses bobbed, the large audience she faced at the Academy yesterday afternoon 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 have it say. One feels first of all the impetuous drive and fire and mettle of her playing. There is not a measure that is mechanical or perfunctory. She might like to lead a cavalry charge—she might like to redeem Russia—but she plays the violin, and into the playing she releases her racial consciousness, and there she finds the wings of aspiration.

The tone is robust and fluent as a river, and free as starlight, though not so cold. The performance in all its technical as in its temperamental aspects seems to come by nature in-born and not by art acquired. The abstruse and difficult concerto by Jules Conus, in a single extended movement, brought forward in the cadenza the unsupported song of the instrument in a lovely fashion. What a bird-song trill that was at the end of the "Mazurka!" The "Russian Romance" was invested with poetic glamour. So was everything else that Miss Given offered. She is, in a word, a wonder. L. T. Grunberg supplied an adequate and conscientious accompaniment. —F. L. W.



Thelma Given, violinist of force and fire, matched by magnificent physique, compelled again the admiration of intuitive musicianship in heroic mold. A broad sweep of powerful bow, the brittle ending of each finished phrase were remembered traits of a gifted player, and one who plays most like a man.—*New York Times*.

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Thelma Given conquered her hearers with her appearance and her playing. Her art offering consisted of a tone of pure quality, sensitive musical reactions and temperamental attack and delivery—piquant nuances and scintillating technique.—*New York American*.

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Thelma Given, famous woman violinist, gave her first concert last night in San Diego under the auspices of the Amphion Club. In technical equipment, vitality of tone and forceful expression she is the equal of most of the great men virtuosi of the world. Combined with these qualities she had feminine charm and personality and a modest sincerity which carried through her playing. Her performance was exceptional. Her work spoke of authority, vital energy and sensitivity, her program requiring every one of these characteristics. Her first group alone calling for every ounce of vigor and mechanical skill she possessed. Three tremendous numbers, boldly and brilliantly expressed: a Chaconne by Vatali; sonata in E minor by Mozart, and a powerful concerto by Jules Conus. In these numbers Richard Tetley-Kardos, handsome, young accompanist, shared honors.—*San Diego Tribune*.

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Thelma Given, a violinist of notable artistry, gave her audience in Philharmonic Auditorium a most delightful concert last evening with the magic of her bow, proving herself the "Rhapsodist" her advance encomiums proclaimed her.

Last night her program opened with the Vitali (1650) "Chaconne," a composition that taxes the skill and artistry of the greatest of modern geniuses. Miss Given played the "Chaconne" well, proving herself a technician of much resource, and in the Mozart sonata in E minor she played with tone in a way to remove all static and entered into Jules Conus' "Concerto" with an assurance of mastery over this most difficult composition.—*Los Angeles Herald-Express*.

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Thelma Given, violinist, well known throughout the east, made her Los Angeles debut last evening in the Philharmonic Auditorium. Miss Given is a serious-minded, strong-willed musician who has chosen an instrument that yields only to genius.

Miss Given's program included the major compositions of Vitali's "Chaconne," the Mozart E minor sonata and the enormously difficult Jules Conus concerto and shorter groups arranged from piano compositions, played admirably by both Miss Given and her accompanist, Richard Tetley-Kardos.

At the conclusion of her program Miss Given graciously responded to a half dozen encores demanded by her enthusiastic audience.—*Los Angeles Times*.

Thelma Given, distinguished woman violinist, made her debut in Los Angeles last evening in the Philharmonic Auditorium under the management of Impressario L. E. Behymer. A handsome, young woman artist, tall, dark and magnetic, Miss Given offered a program that runs the gamut of difficult technic. The Jules Conus "concerto" offered her opportunity for a definite triumph and scored heavily with her audience. She proved herself an adept technician. Richard Tetley-Kardos, handsome, young pianist-accompanist, proved himself an artist of rare promise, sharing honors with the violinist.—*Los Angeles Illustrated Daily News*.

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Miss Given has no trouble in making secure her position as one of the leading players of her sex.—*New York World*.

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Miss Given has a tone of size and resonance. It is as remarkable for its purity as for its penetration and its warmth. It is a thoroughly vital tone and the player's fine command of the bow enables her to fill it with color and nuance. She is a player of high skill whose temperament seems to incline toward dramatic.—*New York Sun*.

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Her intonation is delightfully pure, her tone rich and varied, with an ingratiating feminine sweetness.—*New York Evening Post*.

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The vitality of her style and resonant tone imparted genuine interest to her performance. Her technical equipment was admirable and her dramatic expression eloquent.—*New York Herald-Tribune*.

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A warmth of interpretation and a sure and formidable mechanical command.—*Chicago Daily News*.

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A young violinist with a personality, of great talent and deep feeling.  
—*Chicago Examiner*.

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Proved 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*.

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

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There are no exuberances of waste motion or display, and all is violin playing sincere and passionately eloquent.—*The Philadelphia Ledger*.

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Miss Given indicated the possession of a rich temperament. There was no questioning, not only of her sincerity and artistic convictions, but the emotional fervor which the music inspired in her.—*Boston Evening American*.

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In her playing, Miss Given achieves a tone quality of much beauty. Her lower register produces vibrant, full-throated notes which are almost vocal in their quality. In the middle register of her instrument, she sur-faces her tones with a velvety warmth. With her higher pitch there is fine, resonant clarity.—*Christian Science Monitor*.



## RECENT EUROPEAN PRESS COMMENTS

She proved her right to the highest praise for her exquisite tone, the great distinction and accuracy of her style, lending incomparable charm to all she plays.—*La Presse, Paris*.

One of the few born violinists of magnificent technique and sonorous, colorful tone. Her art is always full of exquisite poetry which springs from a soulful nature of great depth.—*Reichpost, Vienna*.

Magnificent temperament, deeply sensitive musicianship which pulsed in every stroke of her playing, were combined with her dramatic, finished technique and soulful tone.—*Abendzeitung, Vienna*.

Youthful, remarkable violinist of great artistic form, voluminous tone, perfect technique and extraordinary plasticity. Her playing made a deep, unforgettable impression on her audience.—*Rheinische Musik and Theatre Zeitung, Frankfurt-a-Main*.

There is no doubt about the divine singing tone, genuine artistic formation and perfect musicianship of this great artist.—*Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne*.

Sensitive, greatly cultivated and intensely beautiful tone, an elegant technique and powerful delivery combined, gave the picture of a remarkable artistic personality.—*Tageblatt, Cologne*.

The great superiority of her technique, tone and concentration was big enough to place her among the foremost of all the front rank violinists.—*Rheinische Zeitung, Cologne*.

The impetuous impulses which go with a youthful, glowing temperament and a grand rich tone were revealed by the distinguished young American violinist, Thelma Given.—*L'Ambrosiano, Milan*.

It is seldom that we can hear such beautiful violin playing. Her tone is majestic and beautiful, and the technical knowledge of her instrument proves her to be a real artiste.—*Morgenbladet, Oslo*.

This talented violinist belongs to the greatest in her profession.—*Morgenposten, Oslo*.

A beautiful talent, great technical knowledge, a heart and soul.—*Politiken, Copenhagen*.

Thelma Given possesses a highly finished and rippling technique, exquisitely sensitive musicianship, unforgettable tone and above all a glowing temperament.—*Narodni Listy, Prague*.

Her performance showed glowing warmth and vitality in tone. Her interpretation of one single measure at times has more colorful poetic appeal than is often heard in an entire concert.—*Telegraaf, The Hague*.