

Jews Create Music for Paris Exposition

By DAVID EWAN

Paris, September 10th.

THE much-publicised Exposition now taking place in Paris—undoubtedly the most ambitious of its kind that France has ever had—converted Paris this summer into the most important artistic centre in Europe at the present moment. Summer is usually a somnolent period in Paris, when theatres and concert-halls are dark and mute. This summer, however, Paris is feverishly active with gala concerts, events, exhibitions and theatrical performances as a part of the Exposition celebration.

As an integral portion of the Exposition programme (I am tempted to say, as the most integral portion of the Exposition programme) is the musical festival which has been going on since late spring and which will extend throughout the summer. It is of great interest to point out how important a role the Jew is playing in all the musical activities here.

One of the most important musical events here has been the *Fetes de la Lumiere*—festivals of light, poetry and music—which take place regularly on the Seine in the heart of the Exposition. For these *Fetes*, the foremost French composers were commissioned by the Government to prepare special musical scores. Two outstanding Parisian composers produced scores of great effectiveness—employing new qualities of sonorities and impressive timbres that lend themselves for employment in spectacles. These two composers are Darius Milhaud—who, these many years, has been recognised as one of the outstanding French composers of our time, the “dean” of the once-famous French-six—and Manuel Rosenthal.

Equally important in the widely praised musical programmes of the Exposition was the musical score that Darius Milhaud wrote in collaboration with Artur Honegger for the *Naissance d'un pays* by J. R. Bloch performed with enormous success at the Grand Palais. An opera-bouffe by Manuel Rosenthal, *La Poule Noire*, revealed him in one of his lighter moments and disclosed that this composer possesses a deft and graceful pen. Finally, one should mention a concert devoted entirely to the works of Ivan Wyshegradsky, a composer who is not well known outside of Paris, but who is one of the more imaginative and original creative spirits of musical Paris.

Other Jewish composers whose works played an important part in the musical programmes held in honour of the Exposition include the late Paul Dukas, whose *La Peri* was featured extensively, Darius Milhaud with a new string-quartet,



Wanda Landowska

Jascha Fitelberg with a new concerto for violin and orchestra and Artur Honegger with a string-quartet.

Great Jewish conductors have been invited to give special performances of great music as a part of the Exposition programme. Among these was Bruno Walter, who arrived here with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra in two gala programmes—one devoted entirely to symphonic music, the other to a choral masterpiece by Palestrina. Artur Rodzinski, who conducted last season in Cleveland and New York, was likewise an honoured guest of the Exposition. In November, the Habima Theatre of Palestine will come to Paris to perform at the Theatre du Trocadero on the Exposition grounds.

That incomparable Jewish artist, Wanda Landowska—who conducts her own private festival of old music at her villa at Saint-Leu-La-Forêt—has come into Paris as a part of the Exposition to give concerts on her harpsichord.

—American Hebrew.



Bruno Walter.

OUR MONTHLY SERMON

(Concluded from page 16).

the van of human progress. Notable and noble Jewish names are to be found in every branch of learning and in every sphere of life. Judaism, Succoth reminds us, was born in the desert; but it lived to fructify the world. Despite our frail little Succah-life, we succeeded in celebrating a wonderful “Feast of ingathering,” in which, with characteristic generosity, we have invited all mankind to participate. But whilst the noblest sections of humanity have joined our festive board and added to the banquet in a manner that has won our everlasting gratitude and admiration, the anti-Semite, throughout history, has been the eternal parasite. Benefiting from the Jew, he has yet sought to crush him and destroy him. He is ever both the parasite and ingrate!

Should we apologise for our Judaism? Should we constantly explain ourselves away? Humility is a virtue, a Jewish virtue; but to cultivate an inferiority complex at the expense of our faith and ideals is neither virtuous nor wholesome. Let us realise the facts, and face up to them like men. We are bearing the brunt of the battle for civilisation. Barbarism, in the form of anti-Semitism, is directing against us the spearhead of its attack. To suffer is hard; but our cause is glorious. Let us not be afraid. Above all, let us not be traitors to ourselves and to mankind. Let us not sell our precious birthright for a mess of pottage . . . not even if it be red! Every Jew who forsakes his own inheritance in order to climb some social or economic ladder, every Jew who surrenders his honour and soul for the ephemeral stimulation of the latest ideological intoxicant, dishonours his history, betrays his people, puts a sword into the hands of our enemies. Our Succah-Faith has braved all storms unconquered. Shall it to-day be destroyed from within, by our own apostasy, assimilation, or desertion to the newest “ism?”

Succoth has no Shofar. But its message is a clarion-call: To thy Tabernacles, O Israel; to thy refuge, to thy truth, to thy challenge! This is the unchanging law of Jewish history: only as a Jew can the Jew live; only in his Succah is Israel the deathless people, the eternal people of God.

TODAY IN JEWISH HISTORY

Judith, Lady Montefiore

TODAY, September 24, is the anniversary of the death of Judith, Lady Montefiore, who died

in her home at Ramsgate, in 1862 at the age of 78. Throughout her long married life she was not only the companion but also the help-mate of her husband, the assistant and inspirer in many of his innumerable good deeds. In every one of his missions until three years before her death, she accompanied Sir Moses and the diaries that she kept provide some of the raw material on which the record of his career is based. Lady

Montefiore was one of the several daughters of Levy Barent Cohen, from whom most of the Anglo-Jewish leaders of to-day and the past two generations are descended. One sister married Nathan Mayer Rothschild and was thus the ancestress of all the English Rothschilds. A niece married Sir David Salomons, the first Jewish Lord Mayor and the hero of Jewish emancipation, but left no children.

MOSMARK MATZOS

South Africa's Best

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