

# Art and Music in Johannesburg

## A Tchaikowsky Concert

Mr. Michael Doré Conducts  
A.B.C. Symphony Orchestra

THE fifth of the series of symphony concerts of the African Broadcasting Company took place on Tuesday, May 7, at the Jewish Guild, under the baton of the first guest conductor, Mr. Michael Doré.

Mr. Doré, a pupil of the great Arthur Nikish, and a former leader of the world-famous Imperial Opera Orchestra in Moscow, presented a programme that must be unique in the annals of musical Johannesburg. Tchaikowsky had certainly, in Mr. Doré, an interpreter of rare, almost psychic subtlety, and the orchestra's rendering of "Romeo and Juliet," the "Casse Noisette" suite, and the great "Fifth Symphony in E Minor" was heard by an appreciative and deeply moved audience.

"Romeo and Juliet," a prelude to the great Shakespearean love tragedy of that name, is one of Tchaikowsky's early pieces, and was heard in Johannesburg for the first time. So closely, here, does the author adhere to the main features of the drama, that one follows with ease the thread of the tale—the clash of arms of the rival families, and the tender and haunting interludes of love.

The "Casse Noisette" suite, with its contrastive pieces, gave the orchestra opportunity for a display of its versatility. Under Mr. Doré's baton, the suite became a miracle of colour, flexibility, and delicate charm. Gay fantasy and poetic melancholy were here admirably translated. The attractive monotony of the "Arabian Dance" was never more pleasantly presented and the too familiar "Valse des Fleurs" achieved a new distinction.

The main item of the evening was, of course, the "Fifth Symphony in E Minor," which presents, in its entirety, one of the finest examples of orchestration. Every instrument is here given its full advantage, and the musicians responded felicitously to Mr. Doré's mood and interpretation. There were—a rare orchestral feat in this country—some exquisite pianissimos. In the opening bars of the first movement, there is the sense of lurking tragedy, to be found in all Tchaikowsky's serious works, leading to the theme that is repeated in all the movements and treated, first, sadly; then with a tenderness and calm emotion; then playfully in the valse movement; and, finally, with power and unbounded energy, bringing the whole symphony to a dramatic climax. The very spirit of the Slavonic and Russian people is here made articulate by Tchaikowsky, and Mr. Doré, in his interpretation, certainly did not fail the composer.

The only regrettable feature in Tuesday night's concert was the inadequacy of the hall to give full scope to the richness and colour of the instruments. Otherwise, it was, for music lovers, and particularly for admirers of the genius of Tchaikowsky, a musical feast.

L.

## Brilliant Piano Playing

NIEDZIELSKI AT THE METRO

THERE is a popular belief that composer and player are two separate natures; that the one has the "creative" and the other the "interpretative" faculty. In the large sense this is true enough. This is really an important matter, not, in my opinion, cogently probed. Consider, for instance, the general allegation that Jews in music are not creative artists but only interpreters. Bloch and Schonberg definitely belie the statement. But is there actually a wide gulf of "greatness" between composer and interpreter? I doubt it. And Niedzielski's performance on Sunday night strengthened my convictions on the point. Chopin, it is true, inspirationally conceived the marvellous musical ideas that forms the bulk of his work; the studies, ballades, nocturnes, impromptus, etc., that are, and will be the heritage of the ages.

But these works are meaningless masses of bold type until they are re-created for our ears by another great mind and spirit. Call Niedzielski an interpreter if you like, but it is not the right word. I have heard the items comprising Niedzielski's programme many times and always were they "interpreted" competently—but never had I heard the actual re-creation of Chopin's own intellectual and sensual experiences and intentions as this great musician presented them on Sunday night. One felt that this and only this was what Chopin intended; that and only that was the manner of his conception; any other was stunt and distortion and mere "interpretation."

Chopin was the greatest composer of pianoforte music that has ever lived. I am prepared to believe that our own age knows no greater teller of that music than Niedzielski. South African music lovers hardly realise what an unique personality has been among them. One day (for he is quite young) the world will tell them.

The concert was further enhanced by the appearance of Signore Fumagalli, who is the possessor of a magnificent bass voice.

Much credit is due to Messrs. Mackay Bros., who, with the direction of Mr. Cecil Thorne, arranged this splendid concert at the Metro Theatre.

A. A. H.

## The Art Theatre

A FINE PIECE OF "VOLPONE."

IT is pleasing to observe that the development of Johannesburg as a big city with a large population, is also bringing with it various interesting art movements. One of the most notable of these is undoubtedly the Art Theatre, established under the inspiration of Mr. Kurt J. Baum.

On Wednesday and Thursday of last week there was performed at the Jewish Guild, Stefan Zweig's brilliant version of Ben Johnson's celebrated comedy "Volpone." It was a courageous idea to produce a symbolic play of such depth and meaning by a group of amateurs. It was done, however,

# COLOSSEUM

(African Cons. Theatres, Ltd.)  
(Phone 2848 Central).

MATINEE at 3 p.m.  
NIGHTLY at 8.15 p.m.

For the millions who loved  
"Little Women"

NOW . . .

L. M. MONTGOMERY'S  
WORLD-FAMOUS STORY!

# ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

(R.K.O.-Radio Picture)

WITH THE LOVABLE  
NEW SCREEN STAR

## ANNE SHIRLEY

YOU DON'T JUST SEE  
THIS PICTURE . . .  
YOU CARRY IT AWAY  
A TREASURED  
MEMORY!

BOOK NOW!

PLANS AT THE COLOSSEUM

Reef and Pretoria Patrons are advised to make immediate reservations!

and successfully. The casting was good, the decorations simple and satisfying and the costumes and masks wholly delightful.

The performance of Mr. Baum (who produced the play) as the toady of Volpone, a rich Levantine, was finely done, full of the blackguardly abandon and pathos of a penniless adventurer. All the other members of the cast fitted finely into the picture. The audience felt that here was a group of amateur players who were not so much interested in elocution, as in bringing over the footlights the spirit of a play.

The forthcoming Art Theatre production of "Desire Under the Elms," by Eugene O'Neill, should prove an interesting attraction.

D.

## MISS CELESTE MARGOLIUS

Cabled news has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Margolius, of Germiston, that their daughter, Celeste, has been successful in her licentiate examination which she just took in London and was returning shortly to South Africa.

Miss C. Margolius is a promising elocutionist who has gained distinction on several occasions in the past when she received a number of gold medals.

Fencing Materials,  
Grain Bags,  
Woolpacks,  
Twines,  
Groceries,  
Produce,  
Etc., etc.

Send for  
PRICE LIST.

**MOSHAL, GEVISSER (Pty.) Ltd.**  
MERCHANTS.

52, Queen St.,  
DURBAN.

Telegrams:  
"BUSYBEES."

P.O. Box 1183.

CUTHBERT'S FOR LADIES PHOENIX SILK HOSE