

A BIG ORCHESTRA FOR JOHANNESBURG

Mr. Joseph Traunek to Conduct

Music lovers on the Rand will be delighted to hear that Johannesburg is to have the largest orchestra in South Africa.

This has been made possible by a guarantee for the first years of £1,000 from the City Council and a further £1,000 has been promised by a number of leading men of the mining, commercial and industrial activities of the city.

The new orchestra will be conducted by Mr. Joseph Traunek, and will consist of 76 musicians. The orchestra is to give ten concerts a year in two seasons. The first season will open with a concert at the City Hall on September 28, and it is expected that Their Excellencies, the Governor-General and Lady Duncan, will be present on this occasion.

The above information was contained in a statement given to the press this week by Dr. H. J. van der Byl, Chairman of the Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra. It is intended to invite noted soloists to play with the orchestra and generally, to build up in this way musical prestige in South Africa.

Mr. Traunek has been conducting the old Symphony Orchestra for some time and was the founder of that musical combination. The present development is a special tribute to him and to the group of music lovers who made the initial effort possible by their devotion and enthusiasm.

A FINE ORATION

Drosho Delivered by Dr. Landau

On Saturday afternoon, the 11th inst., a large number of men and women gathered at the Park Synagogue to hear Chief Rabbi Dr. J. L. Landau deliver a *drosho*. Dr. Landau is well-known for his eloquent sermons, but it is only on rare occasions that the community is able also to hear him deliver pilpulistic addresses in which he shows the possession of a great erudition and learning. The people listening to Dr. Landau were keenly appreciative of the traditional Yiddish *drosho* being delivered on Sabbath Tshuvo.

With deep psychological and philosophical insight, Dr. Landau defined sin, forgiveness and repentance and contrasted the conceptions of philosophy and the Torah concerning these qualities. He dealt with the importance of the observance of Sabbath, kashruth, purity of the family and problems of education and upbringing which are so grievously neglected in South Africa. He expressed the hope that his pleas would not remain to influence only those listening to him, but would be carried and would influence the entire Jewish public.

Dr. Landau also dealt with the necessity of a Jewish boarding school, which he hoped to see established, and the importance of unity among orthodox Jewry if anything was to be accomplished. The *drosho* made a deep impression on all listeners.

THE MARK HAMBOURG CONCERT

A Great Pianist

THERE was a large and distinguished audience at the Colosseum Theatre on Sunday night last to greet Mark Hambourg, the famous pianist, upon his first recital during his present visit to Johannesburg. It is ten years since Hambourg has been here and it was soon evident that he had lost none of his power as a great executant and piano virtuoso. His technical ability is of a remarkable kind and every rendition he gives is a perfect gem of interpretative genius.

Perhaps his most appreciated items were his Chopin renditions. In these he displays a marked ability. It was this dexterity which raised him early in his life to the pedestal of a master of the piano.

Hambourg has returned to us a little greyer. Although the years have made their usual physical indent, they have not dimmed his power of expression in his interpretation of the classics.

It was pleasant to hear Hambourg in one of Debussy's works. His playing of "Cathedrale Engloutie" was exquisite. It was evident that Hambourg can give expression to the works of the modern composer in the same sympathetic spirit as he does to the older classics. Hambourg was called back again and again by an appreciative and enthusiastic audience, whose consistent demands for encores had to be met.

Mr. George Baker, who appeared on the same programme, is a new artist to South Africa. He is the possessor of an excellent baritone voice. Whilst the musical quality of it may be somewhat limited, there is no doubt about the exceedingly fine diction of the singer, who happens to be possessed of a fine stage presence and perfect stage manner. Altogether George Baker is a pleasant concert platform artist whose popularity is already assured.

Next Sunday, Mark Hambourg and George Baker will again appear in a joint concert at the Colosseum Theatre in an entirely new programme.

D.D.

Johannesburg Jewish Reform Congregation

On Shabbath Shuvah, the 11th inst., the barmitzvah took place at Temple Israel, of Master Marcel Speyer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Max Speyer.

On September 18, at the usual Saturday morning service at 11 o'clock, the barmitzvah will take place of Master Edward Cohen, son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Cohen.

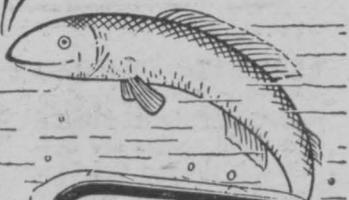
At the Kol Nidre service, held at Temple Israel, the hall was filled to capacity. The augmented choir was conducted under the able leadership of Mr. J. Idelson, whilst Rabbi Weiler delivered an impressive sermon entitled "Whither."

The service on the Day of Atonement was impressive. A sermon was given at the memorial service on "The Continuity of Life." A special children's service was held in the morning, which was fully choral, the children themselves participating. They were given honours. Rabbi Weiler delivered a sermon on "The Meaning of the Day of Atonement."

The Succoth Eve service will take place on Sunday evening, the 19th inst., at 6.15 p.m. All are welcome. The Succoth morning festival service will be held at 10 a.m. on the 20th inst., and will be followed by a social around a beautifully decorated Succah.

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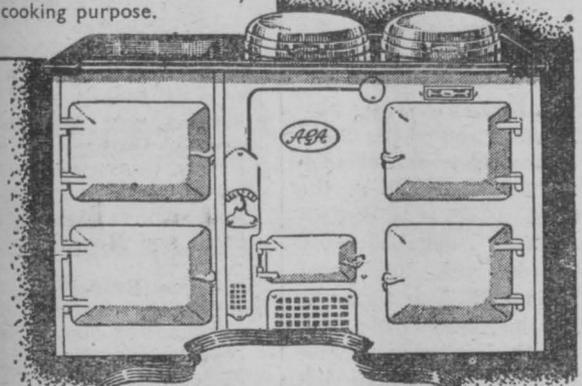
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