

Ella Goldstein—

Brilliant 17-year-old Pianist

"THIS child will be no mediocre talent. She will either be nothing at all, or a great musician," predicted Leo Sirota, the famous Viennese virtuoso, when Ella Goldstein, then a tiny toddler, distinguished between the melodies of Bach and Beethoven, Brahms and Chopin, which he had been playing on the piano. She turned out to be a prodigy, and at the age of seventeen is recognised as a great pianist.

During the last two years, Ella Goldstein has given over sixty performances with the world famous Palestine Orchestra. The Moscow Symphony Orchestra has extended an invitation to the Palestine Orchestra to send an outstanding artist for a season in Moscow, and Ella Goldstein has had the honour of being the first to be recommended. She intends to accept this invitation next year, after which arrangements have been completed for her to tour England and America. Thus the musical reputation of this pretty blue-eyed young girl is likely to become world-wide within the next couple of years.

Musical Family

"I don't think I have ever felt nervous on the platform," she told me in her pleasant, easy manner. "You see, my mother was my first teacher, and at the age of four I performed in a concert given by her pupils." That was in Harbin, Manchuria, where Ella was born, and where the Goldstein family, originally from Russia, lived until 1937. Ella's father, Professor Uriel Goldstein, is a graduate of the Petersburg Conservatoire of Music, and learnt composition from Rimsky Korsakoff and Gluzinov. He is a violinist and conductor, and directed an Academy of Music in Moscow and later in Harbin. So Ella grew up in an atmosphere of intense musical activity. The Goldstein trio has often given performances of chamber music, and the high standard of their playing, as well as their

charming and friendly manner, have endeared them to many audiences.

At the age of eight, Ella performed with the Orchestra of the Eastern Chinese Railways, conducted by her father, and after that appeared on numerous platforms throughout China and in Japan.

"The Jews of Harbin," Mrs. Goldstein told me, as a matter of interest, "are enthusiastic music lovers. They're an active cultural community, and keen Zionists."

In 1937 the family settled in Holland where Ella continued her musical studies under Alexander Borovsky, the famous Russian Jewish pianist. "The Dutch people are simple and friendly," Ella says. "They have a sincere love of music, and are particularly enthusiastic about Beethoven."

Ella's own favourite composers, by the way, are Chopin, Brahms, Beethoven and the Russian masters. At the moment the romantic period has captured her imagination, but she admits that this may be a passing phase.

Niece of Rachel

"We were in Paris when war broke out, and decided to turn East again—this time to Palestine. We have always been Zionists," she said. Mrs. Goldstein's family has lived in Palestine for many years, and its members are old and distinguished Zionists.

Her sister was "Rachel," the famous Hebrew poetess, who wrote most beautiful and inspiring modern Hebrew verse, including the ever-popular "Kinereth." "Rachel" became the idol of the workers, and when she died "Kfar Rachel" was planted in her memory. Dr. Jacob Bluvstein, Mrs. Goldstein's brother, was one of Tel-Aviv's leading cultural workers, and founder of Beth Am, the Great People's Hall.

"Of all the peoples I've met," Ella told me, "the Palestinians as a whole are the most music conscious. All

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concert halls are crowded out, and in town and country young and old alike are personally and vitally interested in orchestra and solo performers. It is encouraging to see."

Remarkable Memory

At her last concert with the Palestine Orchestra, Ella played no less than three concertos, the Schumann, Schostakowitsch, and Beethoven's Emperor. Gifted with a remarkable memory, she commands complete repertoires for twenty orchestral and twenty solo concerts. And yet she does not overstrain herself by endless practising or continuous performances, and always feels fresh and eager at the piano. Every year she accompanies the Orchestra to Egypt to give concerts for the troops. In Palestine itself she has played at all the settlements, where she is known and acclaimed as a great artist.

Ella has tried her hand at composing, and occasionally plays her own compositions as encores. She is no mean linguist, and besides speaking fluently Russian, English and Hebrew, has a fair command of Dutch, German and French. Her father is rather proud of her knowledge of Tanach, while she herself spoke keenly of her interest in modern Hebrew poetry.

As for her other interests, Ella admitted: "I love tangos and ice-creams."

NAIS.

Mr. S. M. Kuper Appointed Chairman of S.A. Jewish Board Deputies

Mr. S. M. Kuper has been appointed Acting Chairman of the Executive Council of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies in place of Mr. David Hayden, who has been obliged to resign the office in consequence of the increasing pressure on his time. Mr. Hayden will remain a member of the Executive Council and of the Administrative Committee of the Board.

Mr. Kuper is a well-known member of the Johannesburg Bar. He was elected a member of the Executive Council of the Board at the Biennial Congress of 1942. He was appointed a member of the Administrative Committee and later chairman of the General Purposes Committee. He is also a member of the Executive Council of the S.A. Zionist Federation.

Potchefstroom Youth Aliyah Fete

OUTSTANDING success marked the fete held in Potchefstroom in aid of Youth Aliyah. The fete was organised by a handful of Jewish women and the record result speaks volumes for their energy and enthusiasm.

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A DISTINGUISHED FAMILY
Professor and Mrs. Goldstein and Ella