

MUSIC AND ART IN JOHANNESBURG

Jacob Nussbaum Exhibition

TO BE OPENED ON MONDAY
AFTERNOON

KEEN interest is being displayed in the exhibition of paintings by Jacob Nussbaum which Mr. Hirsch Hillman will open at the Rand Women's Club, Johannesburg, on Monday next, February 24, at 5.30 p.m.

Jacob Nussbaum is a Jewish painter whose name is not unfamiliar to European art. At present in his 'sixties, he has had a life of varied and deep experience, traveling through many countries of the world until he finally settled in Palestine, where, by the beautiful Lake Kinnereth, he lives to-day, peacefully devoting all his time to his art.

Nussbaum is an artist of fine sensibility, keenly aware of the manifold beauties of nature, and, free from artistic pedantry, he creates in the healthy joy of life works that show his art is both a gift and a blessing to him.

The coming exhibition will contain a representative selection from his works. Many of the paintings, especially the aquarelles, depict scenes in Palestine. There is no doubt that they will attract considerable attention.

Johannesburg Symphony Society

THE Johannesburg Symphony Society's new season opened on Thursday, the 13th inst., at the Wanderers Hall with an "Italian" programme. Although the programme contained items by other than Italian composers, the music offered was, as Mr. Joseph Traunek, the conductor of the orchestra, remarked in a short introductory speech, essentially Italian in spirit.

The concert was one of the most successful that the society has given, and this was in a large measure due to the lovely singing of Madame Anny Lambrechts, who sang the classic Italian prayer "Prigheri" by Durante, and a recitative and aria from Gluck's opera "Orpheus and Euridice." Madame Lambrechts has a rich contralto which can most aptly be described as lovely. It is not powerful, but it is carefully controlled and can produce powerful notes when necessary. It is a perfectly trained voice, and it is lent added beauty by the sensitiveness of the singer's interpretation. Her performance was enthusiastically applauded and the calls for an encore were responded to with Handel's "Largo," which she rendered with deep feeling, with softness and a finely modulated rhythm. She was well supported by Mr. Joseph Traunek, whose conducting of the orchestra in these items was notable, although the players were not always at one with him.

The programme opened with Cherubini's classic overture "Anacreon," a brilliant piece of music which was fairly rendered. The symphony of the evening was Mendelssohn's "Italian" Symphony, claimed by many to be this composer's best work. This symphony which has many vivid and colourful melodies, was very well performed and Mr. Traunek's interpretation was in keeping with its happy spirit.

E. B.

ATTRACTIONS AT THE METRO.

"A Tale of Two Cities" starring Ronald Colman at the head of a cast of 8,000 players, is entering into its second week at the Metro Theatre. The picture, which is an excellent adaptation from the novel by Charles Dickens, is one that should not be missed by anyone. The next attraction at the Metro Theatre is "Rendezvous," starring William Powell and Rosalind Russel. This is a story of the Great War with William Powell as a Secret Service man. Both supporting programmes are good.



The A. Z. Idelsohn Choral Group, which will give a concert of Jewish folk music at the Wanderers Hall, Johannesburg, on Sunday, March 1. This is the third concert of this talented band of singers, and the programme to be offered is a fine one.

Jewish Guild

THERE was a packed house on Sunday evening last to greet the Johannesburg Repertory Players when they presented "Lady Precious Stream" for the Jewish Guild at the Guild Hall, Johannesburg. The play, a delightful Chinese comedy in traditional style by S. A. Hsiung, proved a novel and vastly entertaining change from the ordinary dramatic fare. It was a lovely, naive thing which won the audience from the beginning. It was clothed in all the regal pomp and ceremony of traditional China; and yet, despite its strange form and its unsophistication, its contents was not new, was not different. Here was an old human story, based on simple but fundamental lines; a daughter who does not wish to marry her father's choice, and chooses for herself a husband of her own.

The play was performed in the traditional setting of the Chinese stage, and traditional costumes and music were used. It formed from these aspects an instructive lesson in the Chinese drama.

The acting of the Repertory Players was of good standard. Ingrid Tyler took honours with a fine portrayal of Lady Precious Stream, the heroine of the play. Other players who offered competent portrayals were Maurice Horwitz as His Excellency, Wang Yun; Ann Grevler as his wife; Bruce Meredith-Smith as Hsieh Ping-Kuei, Lady Precious Stream's husband; Blodwen Lloyd as the Princess of the Western Regions; and Carl Nolte as the Tiger General. Mr. Eric Pryce-Davies was informative as the Honourable Reader. The play was produced by Muriel Alexander and Blodwen Lloyd, who were fortunate in securing the expert assistance of the Chinese Consul and Dr. Liang. The play presented novel and refreshing entertainment indeed, and the Repertory Players are to be highly complimented upon staging it.

Palestine Arts and Crafts

EXHIBITION AT H.O.D. HALL.

Mrs. S. Milstein, of Johannesburg, who has just returned here from a two years' visit to Palestine, is holding an exhibition of Palestine arts and crafts at the H.O.D. Hall, 14 De Villiers Street, Johannesburg, on Wednesday, February 26, from 12 noon to midnight.

The work displayed on this occasion is entirely by Jewish labour in Palestine, and the etchings, filigree work, leather work, silver and brass articles, will prove of extreme interest to all who attend the exhibition. The previous exhibition held in Pre-

toria, under the auspices of the Women's Zionist League, proved most successful, and all interested should not miss the opportunity of paying a visit to the H.O.D. Hall on Wednesday next.

Paintings by Victor Cohen

IT is a pity that so few people, comparatively, saw fit to attend the opening last Monday afternoon of the exhibition of paintings by Victor A. Cohen. His work merits wider attention, and one hopes that those interested in art in Johannesburg will give him the support he deserves. The exhibition is being held in Herbert Evans' Galleries, and will continue until February 29. It was opened last Monday by Councillor Maurice Freeman, ex-Mayor of Johannesburg.

Victor Cohen is a South African Jew, born and bred in the Transvaal. He is twenty years old. About a year ago he went overseas to pursue his artistic studies, and the present exhibition is the result of that year. For his age, his work is surprising. He is not simply another precocious youth. His work has a strength, a sureness of touch, a sense of rhythm and colour that tell of an artist who stands already on the threshold of maturity.

Though the 43 paintings on exhibition are of English landscapes, they are seen through South African eyes. They stand out boldly and firmly, in bright colours, especially greens. Their lines when angular are hard; when flowing, they have a large softness, a majesty of rhythm that forms a sort of broad cadence. The sense of colour, the hardness and the rhythm are all South African; they are gifts to an understanding son of a land that is strong and fierce, and yet withal, tender and soothing, offering peace to the children who come to nestle against its breast. It is not often that an artist imbibes these qualities from Africa. That is why the majority of South African artists fail in their portrayals of South Africa; they fail to capture that essence of greatness which is its distinct and peculiar quality. Their sunlight (always golden) and their purple hills (usually rather misty) are not South Africa; they are only some of the outward things which can be found in South Africa.

I believe that South Africa is a great land. I believe that an artist who can appreciate its essential greatness will be a great artist. Victor Cohen's English landscapes show that appreciation. They make one look forward to the South African canvases which he will certainly paint.

E. B.

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