

## The Rubinstein Concert.

The Bach Toccata in C major, with which Rubinstein opened his first concert on Friday night, showed that he had a high opinion of his Cape Town audience. It is one of Bach's organ works adapted for the piano by Busoni, and because it is not an exercise in virtuosity, one realised that the dazzling effect given to the Fugue was only due to Rubinstein's quality as a musician.

The second item before the interval was Schumann's Etudes Symphoniques, which brought out the performer's rare sense of shape and design, and the intellectual comprehension of his approach to his work.

After the interval came a Chopin group, in which the great A flat Polonaise was a magnificent experience; the two Mazurkas were delightful, and so was the sentimental Barcarolle. Then came more modern music, the A minor Prelude and "Ondine" by De Bussy, and one can only wish that he had tackled some of De Bussy's more recent works, as he showed himself a fine interpreter of modernity. The "Fire Dance" by De Falla, which Rubinstein himself discovered and arranged for the piano because of its exacting technique, was the most exciting item on the programme.

As encores were played a Chopin Valse, Scriabine's Nocturne for the Left Hand, and that old favourite Liszt's "Liebestraume."

Mr. Rubinstein will play again here on the 15th June, before his departure for Europe. J.F.C.

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oriental colour. He gave the fullest utterance to his spiritual leanings in the three Jewish Poems, music that in no sense can be classed as superficial, yet which draws very little upon traditional Jewish themes, many of which are undoubtedly borrowed from even more ancient sources. He gives deep expression to the racial currents flowing in his veins as in Sh-lomo and Israel. His orchestration is brilliant in its unusual combinations of colour, clothing his subject matter in glowing intensity and originality.

In addition to those previously mentioned, his works include Symphonies, Symphonic Poems, Hiver Printemps, Exotic Poem, "in the night" and poems of the sea for orchestra; Concerto Grosso for string orchestra with piano obligato; Adoni Elohim for chorus; a quintet and Hebrew meditation for cello and piano, and the famous Sonata for violin and piano.

In addition to the Bloch Sonata, Madame Lambrechts will sing for the first time in Cape Town the Jewish Poems by Darius Milhaud; the song of Zion will be included.

## Modern Jewish Chamber Music.

### BLOCH'S SONATA FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO.

By BORIS CANIN.

*It is gratifying to note that Bloch's Sonata will be performed at the second of the four Chamber Concerts to be given in the Demonstration Hall of Electricity House on June 7th, by Editha Braham, Annie Lambrechts and Jose Roderiguez-Lopez.*

### Ernest Bloch the Poet of Jewish Music.

Ernest Bloch was born in Geneva, July 24th, 1880. He had his first musical instruction from Jacques Dalcrose; at the age of 15 he had written a String Quartet and a Symphony. At 17 he was sent to Brussels Conservatoire, where his teachers were Ysaye and Rasse; in 1900 he became a pupil of Ivan Knorr at Frankfort-on-Main, and later of Ludwig Thuille at Munich. After completing these studies he went to live in Paris, where his first published work appeared in 1903.

While working on a lyric drama, Macbeth, to a libretto adapted from Shakespeare, he conceived several works for orchestra and for voice; in 1909 he was appointed conductor of concerts at Lausanne and Neuchatel. Macbeth was produced at the Paris Opera-Comique in 1910. In 1913 there followed Three Jewish Poems for orchestra, dedicated to the memory of Bloch's father; later he became a lecturer on musical esthetics at the Geneva Conservatoire.

His activities were interrupted by a trip to America, acting as conductor for the dancer, Maud Allen, on her tour of the United States. In 1917 Bloch settled in New York and the friends of music organised a concert of his works under the direction of Arthur Bodanzky, the famous American Jewish conductor. About this time he was working on an opera, Jezabel, and a suite for Viola and Piano which was awarded the Coolidge Prize in 1919. In 1921-23 his orchestral composition, America, won the Musical America Prize and has been played by most of the major Symphony Orchestras.

Few indications of outside influence are to be found in Bloch's works; he instinctively expresses himself in a decidedly Jewish idiom as few of his race have done before. It was reserved for him to find a Modern Musical Medium for the exultation of Jewish Poetry as revealed in the writings of the Priests and Rabbis of ancient times.

This racial impulse became apparent in his earliest works, with their unmistakable

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## NOTICE.

### PROSELYTISM.

THE Federation of Synagogues of the Transvaal, the United Council of Hebrew Congregations of the Cape, the Bloemfontein Hebrew Congregation of the Free State, and the Durban United Hebrew Congregation of Natal, have decided, for the information of the public, to publish over their joint signatures, the following Resolution unanimously adopted by them:—

"That having regard to the fact that the two duly recognised Bate Dinim (Jewish Ecclesiastical Courts) in the Union of South Africa, namely, the Beth Din of Johannesburg and the Beth Din of Cape Town, are the only properly constituted Rabbinical Bodies in the Union possessing the necessary authority and power to deal with applications for conversions to Judaism and to receive Proselytes into the Jewish Faith, only such conversions as shall have been duly carried out by either of the above-named Bate Dinim or duly accepted by either of them shall be regarded as valid, and only such converts as shall be able to produce a certificate to the effect that they have been converted or accepted as converts by either of the aforementioned Bate Dinim will be recognised by the Jewish communities and congregations of the Union as proper Proselytes according to Jewish Religious Law."

(Signed):

Federation of Synagogues of the Transvaal.  
United Council of Hebrew Congregations.  
Bloemfontein Hebrew Congregation.  
Durban United Hebrew Congregation.

## Meshullochim.

The Central Meshullochim Committee, established under the auspices of the S.A. JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES, wishes to notify the public that the letter of authority issued to Mr. D. STERNHALL to collect on behalf of the AKUMAH YESHIVAH expired on the 20th December, 1938, and he has received no authority from this Committee to collect since that date.

The Committee, further, at the request of Chief Rabbi Dr. J. L. Landau, wishes to draw the public's attention to the fact that Dr. Landau has withdrawn his letter dated the 6th March, 1939, issued to Mr. Sternhall in support of his collection.

## HANISOYON (The Temptation)

A Two Act Play.

Reproduced and Translated from Yiddish to Hebrew by Cantor G. Golub will be staged by Past Pupils of the Wynberg Hebrew School at

Wynberg Communal Hall on Sunday, 4th June, at 8 p.m.

DONATIONS, 2/6 and 1/6

Songs Specially produced and arranged by Cantor Golub.

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