

Huberman on Palestine Symphony Orchestra.

Inspiring Address at Reception.

A reception in honour of Mr. Bronislaw Huberman, the famous violinist, was given by the Palestine Symphony Orchestra Society at the Bordeaux Hotel, Sea Point, on Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. ISIDORE COHEN was in the chair and welcomed Mr. Huberman as a brilliant artist whose music brought pleasure and relaxation in these days of darkness and despair and as the founder of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra, which was doing so much for refugee musicians and for the spiritual and cultural life of the Yishuv.

Mr. HUBERMAN said that he regarded the Palestine Orchestra as a child dear to his heart, and felt towards it all the responsibilities of a father to a child. There were many orchestras in the world but there were special reasons why he appealed for support of the Palestine Orchestra. The value of any spiritual artistic work was linked with the number and quality of people whose souls are uplifted by it. There was scarcely an orchestra in the world whose existence was so justified and which was so much needed as the Palestine Orchestra, which had an audience more appreciative than any other in the world; this was largely due to the wonderful atmosphere of Palestine itself. He (Mr. Huberman) had started the enterprise of the Orchestra through the inspiration he got from the audiences during previous visits. When this was combined with the sympathy he felt for his colleagues who had been exiled from Germany, the Orchestra came into being.

Every one who first sets foot in Palestine, whether Jew or Gentile, said Mr. Huberman, is bound to feel a kind of mysticism emanating from the soil. The ordinary everyday activities are elevated to a higher spiritual plane; everyone from the lowest to the highest in the land feels he is doing

his share towards the upbuilding of the country and is conscious of the link between the historic past, present and future. Such a state of feeling is a wonderful preliminary to the opening of the soul to the message of music. Hence the response to the Orchestra in Palestine is in every way unique. In Tel-Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa there are about 7,000 subscribers in addition to occasional attenders at concerts. In this number is included a large number of workmen subscribers. This is the only orchestra in the history of music which gives repeat performances for workmen. He (Huberman) had insisted that the Orchestra must be accessible to all strata of the population. There was a great difference between the Jewish labourer and that of other countries and the difference was inherent in the history of social structure.

As regards the quality of the Orchestra, Mr. Huberman said that from the point of view of the strings it was the finest in the world without exception, for all the players were former leaders. Toscanini, who had graciously consented to conduct during the first season, was so pleased with the Orchestra that he offered himself to return the next season.

Appeal for Support.

Mr. Huberman went on to appeal for support of the Orchestra. Even those who were not great music-lovers should support it from a purely humanitarian point of view. All the players were refugees and a number had been taken out of concentration camps. About a hundred families were maintained by the Orchestra and these depended on outside support. Membership fees alone, especially since the economic depression in Palestine, were insufficient, and support from Europe had fallen off

owing to the war. Bigger sacrifices were needed from those who could afford to give. There was also a political reason for support of the Orchestra, for as the recent concerts in Egypt had shown it could help to bring about better relations between Jews and Moslems.

He was very happy, said Mr. Huberman, that Colonel Kisch had prepared the way for him by arousing interest in the Orchestra in South Africa. **He (Mr. Huberman) did not know whether he would have accepted in war time the tempting offer of Messrs. African Theatres if it had not been for the hope that he would win friends for the Palestine Orchestra. If there was a response in the hearts of his audience to his music, there could be no better sign of appreciation for him than subscription or donation to the Palestine Orchestra.**

Mr. M. S. COMAY said that as Zionists those present found it a great honour to have as eminent a Zionist as Huberman in their midst. The Palestine Orchestra was of tremendous significance to Jews all over the world. It gave a unique stamp to Jewish colonisation, which had no parallel in the world. Almost the first things that had been established by the pioneers in Palestine were the Hebrew University and the Orchestra. The history of the Orchestra represented the history of the Yishuv as a whole. It had been brought into being by people with vision and idealism like Huberman and these were the self-same factors that accounted for the existence of the National Home. As Zionists and not only as music lovers, he assured Mr. Huberman of their interest in the Orchestra and expressed the conviction that Huberman would feel he had not come to them in vain.

Scopus Club Luncheon to Mr. Huberman.

A luncheon in honour of Mr. Bronislaw Huberman was given by the Scopus Club at the Del Monico Restaurant on Friday last.

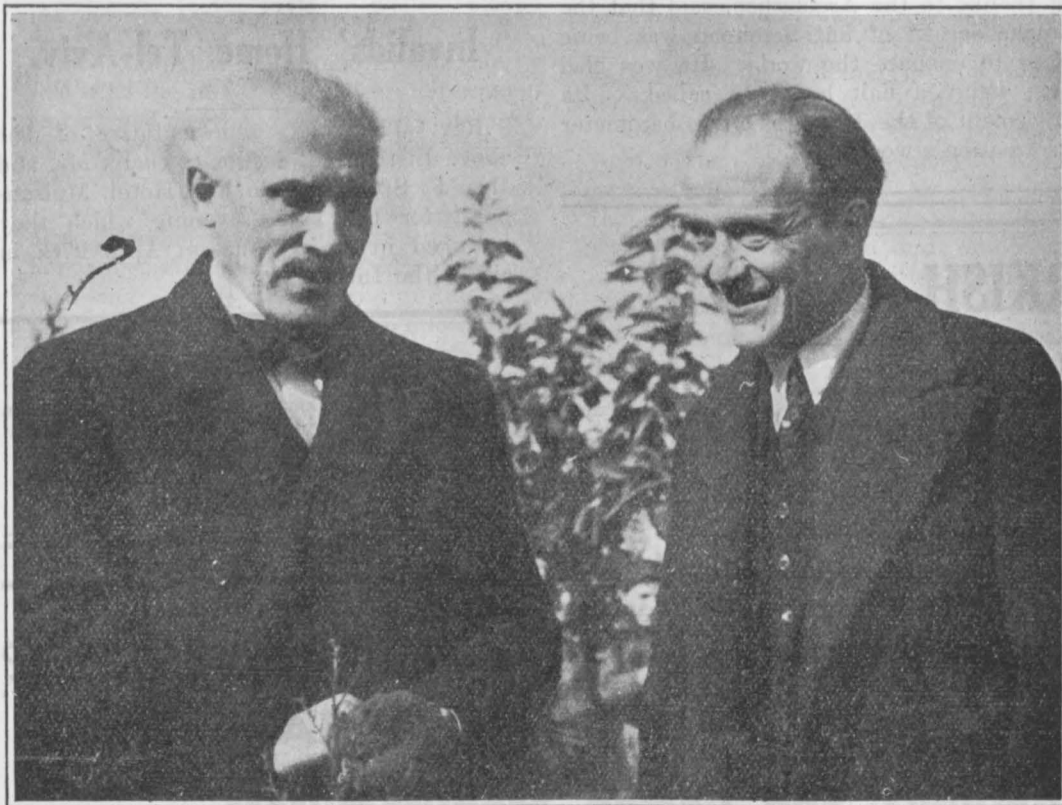
Mr. E. Newman was in the chair.

Mr. Huberman spoke on the Palestine Symphony Orchestra, which he had been led to found for two reasons: the intense love of music among the population of the Yishuv and the fact that some of the best musicians in Europe had been thrown out of their positions. He wanted to give Palestine the spiritual and musical food for which it craved and at the same time save as many first-class musicians as possible. Toscanini conducted twelve concerts during the first season and voluntarily returned the next season. The Orchestra was for him a manifestation of human sympathy and artistic solidarity.

The subscription of the Palestine public to the Orchestra showed an interest in music 8 to 10 times greater than in any of the most musical centres in the world and the attendance at each concert would be equivalent in London to 300,000.

The Orchestra was now passing through a difficult time and greater support was essential. He hoped some of those present would help in arousing the interest of Cape Town music-lovers and others in the Orchestra.

Mr. Leon Burman in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Huberman said this was the first time the Club had entertained a great artist who was at the same time a great Jew.



Toscanini and Huberman during the opening season of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra.