

# Adelaide Musician Earned Wide Fame

Unswerving loyalty to an ideal and faith in his mission to bring a realisation of the greatness of Godowsky as a composer to the whole world, has resulted in an Adelaide amateur musician Mr. Paul Howard, becoming the centre of a world-wide cultural movement.

WHEN I noted that much space was allotted in the latest issue of a famous English musical publication to the Godowsky Society, founded by Mr. Howard, I belatedly realised that something big had been happening here in Adelaide for 20 years right under our very noses of which we had never realised the significance.

Not so, however, with scores of the world's greatest musicians.

It is no exaggeration to say that the director of every European and American conservatorium, through the efforts of Mr. Howard, has become a member of the Godowsky Society.

From a lengthy list I note the names of Isidore Philipp, director of Paris Conservatoire, Dr. Adler (New York), Dr. Ancliffe (Holland), Dr. Gerth-Wolfgang (Prague), Frank Cloisy (Athens), Tibaldi Chiesa (Italy), Antonia Lora (Berlin), Joseph Szigeti (U.S.A.), Alexander Jemnitz (Budapest), and many others. Australia is represented by Prof. Bernard Heinze.

## Membership Simple

Nothing could be simpler than membership of the Godowsky Society, as there are no fees and no business transactions of any sort. All you have to do is to pledge yourself to play some of Godowsky's music and encourage others to do so, either on the concert platform or in the home.

If a teacher, you use some of his music for your pupils.

Mr. Howard must thank the New Zealand musical critic Louis Austin for this recent burst of recognition from England. A Godowsky enthusiast, Mr. Austin actually went 2,000 miles out of his way when making a trip to England to visit Mr. Howard in Adelaide, and so hear some of his greatest pianoforte compositions of this master composer.

Mr. Austin described the Adelaide pianist as a "musical phenomenon," and justified the claim by saying that "pianists of the calibre of Backhaus, Levitski, Spivakowski, and many more have sat in Mr. Howard's music room spellbound while he unfolded

to their hearing keyboard developments of which they had barely dreamed."

Mr. Austin adds:—"The Sonata in E minor takes over an hour to perform, and I believe Mr. Howard spent two or three years in memorising it. Beethoven's "Hammerklavier," which von Bulow stated needed relays of pianists to perform, is child's play in comparison."

It really seems that Mr. Howard's name will for ever be linked with that of Godowsky, as was Mendelssohn's with Bach.

Godowsky, being a mighty pianist, composed in an idiom which excluded all but a handful of great pianists. His works were so difficult that even those musical giants could not possibly give the time necessary for a preparation of compositions of colossal difficulty.

As a result, Godowsky works have been condemned to relative obscurity—a fate unthinkable for a composer judged the equal, if not the superior, of Liszt.

## Musicians' Soup Kitchen

Arriving out of my investigation into the activities of the Godowsky Society, I learned a little of the present condition of many of England's foremost musicians. The war and the imminence of invasion has interrupted the normal avenues of employment for performers, both broadcast and concert engagements being considerably curtailed.

Musicians in Australia will assuredly be moved to do something practical to assist their fellows in the motherland when they learn that the funds of charitable organisations have been absolutely exhausted in assisting such musicians.

A well-known English composer, who has many relatives in South Australia, writes to a friend in Adelaide:—"In London soup kitchens are being built for destitute composers."

Cannot we Australian music makers do something to solve this urgent problem?