

## THE GODOWSKY SOCIETY

I apologise to members for the late issue of Newsletter No. 2.

This edition is much as outlined in the first Newsletter: it contains the complete list of Godowsky's published transcriptions - and a formidable list it is! Excepting the list of educational publications which will appear in a later issue, this concludes the list of published works. This has involved quite a bit of typing which has been done, of necessity, by myself, and I'm sorry if the spelling errors offend, but I do not at the moment have time to proof read my work with the attention it requires.

Also included is John Hinderer's 'Notes on a Godowsky Master Class' plus the same writer's (he acted for some time as Godowsky's unpaid secretary) 'Godowsky and Javanese Music' which relates to the Java Suite: 'This was, incidentally, just one (and a considerable one, for it has a playing time of over an hour) of a projected series of travelogues. His further plans for this series were reported thus: "Next I shall record my musical impressions of Egypt, Assyria and Palestine, as well as those of several European countries. Then I shall come back to America and start on the American suite which I have already planned. This American suite will begin with a polyphonic sketch entitled the "Melting Pot" in which early America is shown as a combination of Old World elements. There will be a skyscraper movement to denote the energy and power of America and its significant aim to reach the skies. A description of Niagara Falls will symbolize the momentum of American life, and there will be local descriptions involving the Negro rhythms of the South and the Indian color of the West. Such elements as the cowboy and miner will be treated carefully. The final sketch will be my conception of glorified jazz." Shortly after giving this interview, Godowsky had a stroke following which he virtually stopped writing music and concertizing.

Ronald Stevenson kindly contributed the copy of the caricature of the great Walloon violinist and composer Eugene Ysaye (1858-1931) and Godowsky. It is taken from Prof. Lev Ginsburg's book YSAYE, translated from the Russian by X. F. Danko and edited by Dr. H. R. Axelrod (Paganiniana Publications, Inc., 211 West Sylvania Avenue, Neptune City, N.J. 07753, U.S.A., published 1980). This is a pictorial and informative treasure-trove. Unfortunately, the artist who executed the caricature is not credited.

Stevenson has also furnished the following observations:

Recently I read Lajos Lesznai's book on Bartok, translated by Dr. Percy M. Young (J.M. Dent & Sons Ltd., London, 1973). In the 'Appendix C - Personalia

one reads :

"Godowsky, Leopold (1870-1938), a Polish-born pianist, settled in the U.S.A. in 1901. He was at that time Director of a Conservatory in Chicago. Between 1909 and 1914 he taught in Vienna. A naturalized American, he ended his life in New York."

- Not a word about the compositions and transcriptions!

Also, that's a decidedly odd last sentence, which gauchely implies that Godowsky was a suicide - which he certainly wasn't!

But the main body of this book contains some valuable research-material which proves that Godowsky advised the young Bartok on his piano-writing, and that, moreover, Bartok took the advice. Here's the proof:

Bartok letter to his mother, February 6, 1903, from Vienna: "I played a new work of my own with which I achieved much success...It is a sonata movement for the left hand only, which sounds as if I played it with three hands. Leopold Godowsky enjoyed these pieces, and remarked that the one for left hand had good ideas. He also criticised something in it, and I will use his suggestion, in so far as this is concerned it will make an improvement. Finally he said, 'Out of that something great will emerge.'

Bartok's Etude for the Left Hand (1903) is published in Raymond Lewenthal's superb collection Piano Music for One Hand (Schirmer, N.Y., 1972). It is a sonata-movement. The Godowsky correction could be verified by comparison with the original draft MS which I shall try to obtain from Budapest. But the letter is proof.

R.S.

The undernoted list of recordings by Godowsky and of music by Godowsky played by others was intended as a pendant to the Discography, however, I'm giving it just the same. These recordings are all of fairly recent provenance and should still be available. I will always be glad for information regarding recordings of things Godowsky.

International Piano Archives IPL 105 Leopold Godowsky - Piano

Greig: Ballade

Beethoven: Op. 81a Sonata

Schumann: Carnival

Desmar IPA 113 Leopold Godowsky - Piano

Chopin: Sonata No.2, B-flat minor, Op. 35

Debussy: Clair de lune

Sinding: Rustle of Spring

Chaminade: Scarf Dance and The Flatterer

Rubenstein: Melody in F

Tchaikowsky: Barcarolle - June from Op. 37

Schubert-Godowsky: Morgengruss

Schubert-Godowsky: Gute Nacht

All of the above recorded between 1925 and 1930

Pearl GEMM 167 Leopold Godowsky - Piano

Schubert-Godowsky: Morgengruss

Schubert-Liszt: Hark, Hark! The Lark!

Mendelssohn: Andante/Rondo Capriccioso

Chopin-Liszt: Chant Polonais No. 5

Henselt: Berceuse in F-sharp major

Anton Rubenstein: Reve Angelique

Anton Rubenstein: Serenade in D-minor

Schubert-Tausig: Marche Militaire

Schubert-Godowsky: Gute Nacht

Chopin: Valses: E-flat major, Op. 18

A-flat, Op. 42

C-sharp minor, Op. 64 No. 2

Etudes: G-flat, Op. 10 No. 5; Op. 25 No. 9

F-minor, Op. 25 No. 2

Nocturne in E-flat, Op. 9 No. 1

Polonaise in A-major, Op. 40.No.1

Impromptu in A-flat, Op. 29

Fantaisie-Impromptu, Op. 66

Berceuse in D-flat, Op. 57

Desmar IPA 118/19 (2-record set) David Saperton - Piano

Chopin-Godowsky: Studies on Chopin Etudes nos. 4, 13,14,15,25,26,33  
36,47,48 and 45.

Strauss-Godowsky: Symphonic Metamorphosis on themes from "Die Fledermaus"

Symphonic Metamorphosis on the Waltz, "Artists Life"

(this album also contains the complete Chopin Studies - in the original!)

International Piano Archives IPL 1001 Steven Glover - piano

Godowsky: Passacaglia in B-minor

(this record also includes the Moszkowski Piano Concerto)

L'Oiseau-Lyre DSLO 7 Shura Cherkassky - Piano

Strauss-Godowsky: Wine, Women and Song

Saint-Saëns-Godowsky: The Swan

Rameau-Godowsky: Tambourin

Godowsky: Waltz-Poem IV for left hand alone

Schubert-Godowsky: Moment Musical No. 3 in F-minor, Op.94

Albeniz/Godowsky: Tango, Op. 165 No. 2

Godowsky: Alt Wien

(this record includes a selection by other composers)

L'Oiseau-Lyre DSLO 26 Jorje Bolet Piano

Chopin-Godowsky: Studies on Chopin Etudes Nos. 1, 5, 7, 12, 13, 15, 25 and 44.

Waltz in D-flat major Op. 64 No. 1

Waltz in A-flat major Op. 64 No. 3

Waltz in A flat major Op. 69 No. 1

Waltz in F-minor Op. 70 No. 2

Waltz in D-flat major Op. 70 No. 3

Waltz in E flat major Op. 18 Concert

Genesis GS 1000 Doris Pines + Piano

Rameau-Godowsky: Tambourin

Godowsky: Wienerisch

Godowsky: Humoresque (from Miniatures for four hands) with Linda Friedman

Chopin-Godowsky: Etude No. 13

Chopin-Godowsky: Etude No. 47

Strauss-Godowsky: Die Fledermaus

Godowsky: Sonata in D-minor (first movement only)

Godowsky: Java Suite - Gamelan and Chattering Monkeys

From now on, I hope to establish a regular pattern of issuing Newsletters in August and in February, so the next issue will be August this year. Anyone wishing to contribute will be most welcome and the deadline for contributions will be mid-July at the latest.

Due to increased costs of duplication and postage, members will appreciate that the present subscription is unrealistic. Accordingly, with much misgiving, I'm having to raise this to £4.00 (\$9.00) which may be forwarded at your convenience or on receipt of the next Newsletter.

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SCOTLAND