

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
SEASON 1931-32

Sixth Musical Convocation

By

Lillian Helms Polley, Soprano
Marguerite Klinker, Accompanist
Lura Schuler Smith, Pianist
Carl Frederick Steckelberg, Violinist
Earnest Harrison, Violinist
William Quick, Viola
Betty Zabriskie, 'Cello

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 18, 1931
TEMPLE THEATRE
4:00 o'clock

Program



Franck

Sonata for Piano and Violin
Allegretto ben moderato
Allegretto poco mosso

MRS. SMITH, MR. STECKELBERG

Szulc
Koechlin
Rabey
Ravel
Pierne

La Lune Blanche
Au temps des Fees
Apaisement
Le Grillon
Le Moulin

MRS. POLLEY

Franck

Piano Quintette
Molto moderato quasi lento

MRS. SMITH, piano
MR. STECKELBERG, first violin
MR. HARRISON, second violin
MR. QUICK, viola
MISS ZABRISKIE, 'cello

MARGUERITE KLINKER, Accompanist

Steinway piano furnished by courtesy of
Schmoller and Mueller Piano Co.

CESAR FRANCK, though associated more intimately with France and the music of France, was born at Liege, Belgium in 1822. Franck was a distinguished organist. His life was deeply religious. This was reflected in the unworldly, spiritual character of his music. Franck was one of the pioneers of symphonic music in France.

SONATA FOR PIANO AND VIOLIN

Franck wrote only one sonata for piano and violin, composed in 1886. THE FIRST MOVEMENT, "Allegretto ben moderato" is not written in the strict sonata form. This music is spontaneous and improvisational in character; a restless mysticism prevades this movement.

THE LAST MOVEMENT, "Allegretto poco mosso" is written throughout in canonic imitation, the violin following the piano in graceful melodic phrases.

LA LUNE BLANCHE is Paul Verlaine's popular poem often called "Peace", for it describes the white moonlight in the trees, the brook mirroring the willow's shadows, the star-lit earth; a dreamy, exquisite hour.

AU TEMPS DES FEES is a poem by Madame Busser. In the old, dreamy time of the fairies one would live under the trees with the lily-of-the-valley, knowing nothing, caring for nothing, happy and gay, nourished by moonbeams and drinking dew, sleeping under the leaves, singing like the spring and laughing like the wind, following the dragonfly and the breeze. Perhaps one day Mab would change us into a flower.

APAISEMENT is a poem by Batilliot. It describes the peace of the hour when life is enveloped in dreams; night closes the eyes and thoughts carry one to a place of mystery. "Above the spirit of the streams the blue moon rises. Your head against my heart, your gentle breathing, I fear to kiss you again, for I adore you thus. The wind plays in your hair and waves of perfume caress you. In the distance sings a fountain where nymphs stretch exhausted on the flowers. I know the secret of their dream, which cradles you."

LE GRILLON is Jules Renard's witty description of the doings of a cricket, the many duties of the insect which Ravel illustrates with musical commentary.

LE MOULIN, according to the poem by Guinand, turns and turns in the good wind which moves its wings. The full granery is watched by the Miller. The sound is a lullaby for the baby but for the mother it tells of the silver which will come to reward the miller for his efforts, because there is always the spectre of declining days just over the hill.

QUINTETTE. Franck wrote only one piano quintette. This was composed in 1880. THE FIRST MOVEMENT, "Molto moderato quasi lento", taxes the resources of all five instruments. Though each instrument is given full measure of emotional and spiritual expression, the balance of the ensemble is never lost sight of. It is surprisingly modern in feeling and harmonic treatment. A strange mysticism prevades all of Franck's music.