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(My commission expires February 21, 1930) Vol. XX May, 1928

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Vol. XX MAY, 1928 /

## Why Music Is an Essential Study

By SOPHIE A. PRESTON

E should study music because it is the universal language of emotions and appeals to the heart of every human being. Stop to consider what this life would be without it? A dreary place indeed, stale, flat and unprofitable, it is inconceivable.

Shakespeare, the immortal bard, "the man who hath no music in his soul, nor is not moved by concord or sweet sounds is fit for treason, stratagem and spoils, the motions of his spirit are as dark as Erebus. Let no such man be trusted." To quote from Luther "Next to theology, I give to music the highest place and honor. We see how David and all the saints have wrought their godly thoughts into verse, rhyme and song." George Eliot says, "There is no feeling, except the extremes of fear and grief, that does not find relief in music."

We should study music because its influence is felt in every phase of life, from the cradle songs of our infancy to the funeral dirges of the passing years of old age. No education would be complete without it. It awakens the finer qualities of the soul and insures spiritual growth, stimulates the imagination and improves the mind. The study of music is not only elevating in its influence upon the character but produces a form of entertainment which is universally appreciated.

#### Importance of Music

The importance of music in our lives is realized through all the ages of mankind. At the beginning of life, the infant in arms is soothed by the simple lullabies crooned by the mother and millions throughout the world are wafted into dreamland by the singing of slumber songs. The next step is in the kindergarten, where the songs of the children are the spontaneous expression of their joys and delight mingled with the spirit of play; how dull and lacking in inspiration would be their games without music.

Then in the schools, music is becoming more and more important, it is given a part in the regular curriculum, credits are given as in other subjects and it may be chosen as the major study in some schools. Credit may be received for voice, piano and violin from the outside teachers who are standardized, which is a step in the right direction, also for orchestra and theory work in the school; a recognition of the value of music.

No. 11

The music memory contests also encourage a better appreciation of music which will last a lifetime. The recent establishment of a national observance of music week will develop a knowledge which will be felt in ages to come and proves that music has an essential place in our lives. It is no doubt essential to the development of a well-balanced character.

#### Evolution of Musical Nature

The next step in the evolution of our musical nature is in the springtime of life when a "young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." It is through music that he woos his lady love and they make their vows to the sweet strains of music, supplemented by the ever-popular Mendelssohn's "Wedding March." It was the serenade beneath her window that captivated the maid of old, now replaced by the flapper who falls to the tune of modern jazz.

We now come to the influence of music in the home, which is indispensable there, for no home is complete without a musical instrument of some kind. It unites the family in harmony and peace as they gather around the piano and sing the old favorites, "Love's Old Sweet Song." "Silver Threads Among the Gold," and other melodies that will live forever as they come from the heart.

The power of music is felt in all phases of life, it stirs the patriotism of the soldier and gives him courage to face the battle. What veteran can listen to the inspiring strains of the "Star Spangled Banner" or "Marching Through Georgia" without recalling the experiences associated with the stirring music or other songs like "It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperarry," etc., without bringing tears at recollection?

#### Music One of the Fine Arts

Music has always been enjoyed as a fine art but was cultivated principally by the favored few. It is now becoming more universal, so that every man, woman and child can

(Continued on Page 6)

memory.

men, women and children.

#### Why Music-from page 5

learn to apreciate its beauty and gain some knowledge of its form to a certain extent, without being artists. The radio is helping the cause of music by bringing it into the homes of thousands who are feeling its influence. Even in the moving picture shows, popularly called "movies," when the appeal to the eye seems paramount, music comes in for its share of attraction and is becoming more and more an important feature instead of a background for the play itself, and only trained artists are able to fulfill present-day requirements as organists.

Also, the many classical compositions that are played in artistic style, portraying different moods, give cultural enjoyment and have their place in the musical development of society and the home, besides the popular songs and pieces that are more easily understood. Modern jazz should be considered as it has its place and puts life and pep into many a social gathering; its syncopated rhythm is well adapted to the dance, theatre, orchestra, circus and other activities of a non-serious nature.

#### Religion and Music

Our religion is dependent upon music. What church service would be complete without it? The sonorous tones of the organ blending with the voices of the choir make a celestial harmony which is soul inspiring and conducive to worship.

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music of the concert stage are enjoyed and appreciated by all

cultured people. The music of well-trained bands has also

its uplifting influence and affords amusement to thousands of

physicians are making use of in the cure of diseases. There

are cases of insanity which have been cured by its influence.

There is no doubt that music is essential to the development

of the human race, intellectually, morally and socially. Music

should be studied not only because it is elevating and entertaining but for the reason that the study of it stimulates the

brain, promotes concentration of mind, and improves the

Carlyle, in attempting to describe music, said "It is a kind

of inarticulate, unfathomable speech, an indefinable something which leads us to the edge of the infinite and allows us for a

moment to gaze into that." What better tribute to the power

of music than this and what great reward will come to those

who are fortunate enough to study it! Their lives will be

enriched; a blessing not only for themselves, but affecting all

those with whom they come in contact, making the world

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## The Guitar in the History of Chamber Music

Continued from

By VAHDAH OLCOTT-BICKFORD
(Musical Director of The American Guitar Society)

Indeed, the guitar was taking such an important part in the chamber music of the day and as an accompaniment to the voice and even in melody playing, that had it not been for the shrewdness of a certain old Harpsicord maker, Kirkman, by name, the piano might never have attained to its present supremacy in popularity over the guitar, who knows? Anyway, it is written in Rees Cyclopedia (1819) by Dr. Burney: "The common Guitar used in England has frequently had fits of favor in this country. About fifty years ago its vogue was so great among all ranks of people as to nearly break all the Harpsichord and Spinet makers, and indeed the Harpsichord masters themselves. All the ladies disposed of their Harpsichords at auctions for one-third of their price or exchanged them for Guitars, till old Kirkman, the Harpsichord maker, purchased some cheap guitars and made a present of several to girls in milliners' shops and to ballad singers in the streets, whom he had taught to accompany themselves with a few chords and triplets, which soon made the ladies ashamed of their frivolous and vulgar taste and return to the Harpsichord."

Henry VIII, as well as his daughters Mary and Elizabeth, was an admirable lutenist, and they all maintained Lute-players at high salaries in their households. At this time the gut E strings, of which there were several small ones, were as now, only more so, very fragile and easily broken, and a gift of lute strings was one of the most useful presents which could be made to a player—even Queen Elizabeth did not disdain to accept them.

Francis W. Galpin says: "It is a melancholy fact that the instrument which played so worthy a part in the musical world of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, (the Lute) is now so rare and so little known that many people imagine that it was 'blown like a flute.' Even in 1676 Mace, one of the greatest Lute players and composers of songs for the accompaniment of Lute, had to lament the signs of its waning popularity, for he thus addresses his beloved instrument:—

What makes the sit so sad my Noble Friend, As if Thou wert (with sorrows) near The End? What is the cause, my Dear Renowned Lute, Thou art of late so silent and so mute? Thou seldom now in Public dost appear, Thou art too Melancholy grown I fear.

To him the Lute replies:-

What need you ask these Questions why 'tis so? Since 'tis too obvious for All men to know The world is grown so Slight: full of New Fangles, And takes their Chief Delight in Jingle-Jangles; With Fiddle-Noises; Pipes of Bartholomew, Like those which Country-Wives buy, Gay and New, To please their little Children when they Cry-This makes me sit and Sigh thus Mournfully.

Mace wrote a very fine Method for the Lute.

The Lute has of recent years had quite a revival in Ger-

many particularly and to some extent in Austria, as well and we certainly hope that this awakened interest will finally reach America, where we hope to be enabled to hear it more frequently with the voice or, as Mr. Galpin says: "in consort" with its old-world conferers.

The Lute has filled almost as important a part in the domain of literature and art, such as painting and sculpture, as it has in its own realm of music. Shakespeare, as previously mentioned, gave it a frequent place in his plays. He has Queen Catherine's maid in Henry VIII, sing the charming song Commencing "Orpheus with his Lute" to dispel her Royal Mistress's sadness. In a poem written to commemorate the entry of Queen Anne of Denmark into the Scotch capital in 1530 we are told.—

Sum on Lutys did play and sing Of instruments the onley King.

In these old days most of the Lute music was written in Tablature and it is indeed possible if not probable, that had it been written in the usual musical notation now so generally accepted, but then in its mere infancy, the Lute would not have left the stage of its popularity with such completeness as it did, for the Tablature, something similar to the diagram system used so frequently today for the ukulele accompaniments by those teachers who either do not know the notes themselves or who do not care to bother teaching them, went out of vogue and with it the means of its interpretation, so that it appeared mystic to the musical world at large and thus those old masterpieces that were written for the lute in that form were lost to the musical world for many centuries. It is only in the past four or five years that they have been re-written in some cases in musical notation. The same has been the case with the fine lute music of the great Johann Sebastian Bach, so often called "The Father of Music." He was a lover and a performer on the lute and wrote several Suites for the Lute, some of them in combination with the violin and other instruments and some of them chiefly for the Lute in solo capacity. It will be the privilege of many American lovers of these instruments to hear some of the original Lute music of Bach performed by the great Spanish guitar master, Andres Segovia this season during his American tour. He includes in all of his programs a Lute Suite by Bach. This consists of several movements. It states on his programs that "It is now certain that some of these pieces were destined by Bach for the Lute alone and have been traced through his actual pupils, Peter Kelner and Krebs, whilst others are in Bach's own manuscript." One of the New York critics after Segovia's recital there in January speaks most highly of the beautiful effects secured on the guitar by Segovia in the Bach music and adds that Bach evidently knew what he was doing when he wrote this music for the Lute instead of the Harpsichord, Spinet, etc. While Segovia does not feature Chamber Music, but is primarily a soloist, yet Bach, whose music he is bringing to us in this

(Continued on Page 8)

#### Guitar Chamber Music-from page 7

interesting recital, was one of the greatest masters along chambermusic lines that ever lived and his use of the Lute shows his desire to keep it in its proper place as a lovely instrument for Chamber music and for solos as well.

The earliest forms of ensemble music composed for the various stringed instruments, with or without voice, often included the lute. It was called Chamber Music because it was actually "room music," and was usually performed before some Royalty and seldom if ever, were actual public concerts heard. So far we know, this was first started in England, where John Banister (1630-1679,) violinist and leader of King Charles the Second's "New Band of Twenty Violins," started some concerts for the public in London So we find that from the earliest time of public ensemble music in London they called them "Bands" and that word is used to the present day, as all their mandolin and guitar ensemble groups are called Mandolin Bands, and Madame Sidney Pratten the famous British guitarist had an ensemble of guitars alone in the eighties, called Mme. Pratten's Guitar Rand

At these concerts of Banister's, which were the first concerts of which we have record to be given for the public and for which admission was charged, and which were therefore of historic importance, the proceeding took the public's fancy and the concerts became at once a financial success. At these times we are told that the musicians were very modest and that they refused to perform in public if they were to be seen in the act! Quite a far cry from then to today when they desire as much publicity of all kinds as is possible.

Chamber music which had taken deep root in England also became popular in France, and Louis XIV had his "Maitre de la Musique de la Chambre du Roy" and it is said that he fairly lived in music and that it was the constant accompaniment of his life. The allpowerful Jean Baptiste Lully, born near Florence, Italy in 1633, arrived in Paris in 1642 when he was but nine years old as a poor kitchen boy and became the reigning musical influence of the King's court. Grove tells us: "An old Franciscan monk gave the gifted but mischievous child some elementary instruction and taught him the guitar and the rudiments of music. "Mr. Bone tells us, however, that Lully first came to France as a page to Mdlle. de Montpensier, a niece of Louis XIV. It was customary for rank to maintain in their service an Italian boy, a singer with mandolin or guitar accompaniment. We are told that his countenance was not of such beauty as to recommend him for the desired purpose, but that his vivacity and ready wit in addition to his skill on the guitar were the cause of his being engaged in this capacity. On his arrival the lady was so disappointed with his looks that she thought he would never do as a page so she made him an under-scullion! But

we are told that neither the disappointment he experienced. nor the employment in which he was placed, affected the spirits of young Lully. He still devoted himself to the guitar in his leisure moments and it was not long until his musical skill brought him higher and higher till he became Court Musician and composer of the music for the Court ballets. Later he studied the violin, but the guitar was his first instrument and the one which brought him to the attention of the Court. In his early career he composed much music with the guitar, but it remained in manuscript. Later he became the composer of numerous operas and also obtained success as a sacred composer. However, of great importance to our story of the importance of the influence of the guitar in ensemble music, is the fact that his genius was further employed in training musicians to perform together in artistic fashion for the King's delight. His orchestra was famed throughout Europe for their high-class ensemble.

(Continued in the June issue)

#### Hyde Park Banjo Quartette Wins Country Wide Comment

The Hyde Park Banio Quartette of St. Louis, Mo., under the direction of Bob Marvin is causing country wide comment on the excellence of its playing. Mr. Marvin is a plectrum banjoist and has a teaching record of many years. One member is Dewey Brockmeyer, who is associated with his farther A. C. Brockmeyer in the Imperial School of Music, Both are partners in the Crescent Music Publishing Company. Another is Olan Thurston, capable and persatile banjoist heard in many solo broadcastings through Station KMOX. Wayne Jacobson is the fourth member, equally as fine an artist on the banjo. This banjoquartette has received many letters from KMOX radio fans commenting upon their well selected and masterly played programs featured over this station.

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# Fretitorials

by the EDITOR

#### SAMUEL SIEGEL

Famous Recording and Radio Mandolinist, Member of Roxy's Gang

REMINISCING with some of the popular fretted instrument artists I could not help but stop and again "look in" on the interesting experiences of Samuel Siegel.

Samuel Siegel was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on March 17, 1875. Possibly I should not have revealed these dates, but before I go on further let me say that—music knows no age. As my story will reveal, "Sam" is the kind of a musician "we" would like to see live on forever. However, at the age of eight, Sam had several lessons on the reed organ; even though his father was musical and wanted the boy to have a musical education, as far as the organ was concerned, Sam was a failure.

At the age of thirteen he began selling musical instruments in his father's store. This, of course, gave him an opportunity to try the various instruments "at his leisure." The banjo first appealed to him and he quickly learned to play by ear. Fretted instruments seemed to have their attraction, for it was not long before Sam set about and learned to play the guitar and mandolin. When fifteen years old Sam could play anything on the mandolin that he heard.

At about this time he decided he wanted to learn to read music and took seven half-hour lessons from a local teacher, learning to read lines and spaces and a few other musical hieroglyphics. In about a year his friends looked upon him as a "boy wonder."

Opportunity knocked at his door at about this time, for the Des Moines Mandolin Club lost its first mandolinist and he was given a try-out. His tone and technique appealed to them and at the next meeting of the club Sam was voted in. This began his "official career" as a mandolinist.

Shortly after he had the good fortune of meeting "Paddy" Ryan, who is now one of the leading surgeons of Iowa. "Paddy" and Sam took a liking to one an other; soon they arranged for some mandolin and guitar duets at the country school house where Dr. Ryan's brother was a teacher. These were Sam's first concerts.

At the age of seventeen he was engaged as mandolin soloist with the Beethoven Symphony Club and Male Quartet, and the following season traveled as soloist with the Des Moines Ladies Quartet.

In 1895, his chum "Paddy" Ryan who was attending Cornell College, arranged for Sam to appear there in concert. Egicert Van Alstyne, a prominent song writer, accompanied him on the piano. Several weeks later Sam Siegel returned to Cornell as soloist for the annual Glee Club tour. The following year he organized the Siegel Concert Company which traveled under the auspices of Cornell College.

Around 1898 the Boston Ideal Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Club gave a concert in Des Moines, and after the concert Sam induced Mr. Lansing and his associates to listen to his renditions, accompanied by his brother on the guitar. They played the "Waltz di Concert," and Sam says: "I shall never forget the complimentary and encouraging remarks we heard from the members of the club. Up to that time I was skeptical about my ability to go east and make good with the big fellows, but the Ideal boys told me I would be safe."

Mr Siegel made vaudeville tour opening at Keith's Union Square Theatre, New York, on New Year's Day in 1890, Later he was engaged by Brooks and Denton as the feature soloist for their last Festival Concert in New York which concert gave him a very satisfactory presentation to the New York people.

Later in the same year, Mr. Siegel played a six weeks engagement in London. Incidentally he was probably the first American mandolinist to appear in England. He returned again in 1900 and resumed concert and vaudeville work with the assistance of Hyman Meyer, pianist and entertainer.

Three years later he originated a system of teaching music by mail which system later developed into the Siegel-Meyers Correspondence School of Music, teaching all branches of music and having the endorsement of Paderewski, Damrosch and many others. The School is now known as the University Extension Conservatory.

Having various clever inventions in the line of educational toys and novelties, Mr. Siegel went into that line. His Musical Menagerie idea which is an exceptionally clever way of teaching young players music, has been highly endorsed by many of the world's great artists, among them Madam Schumann-Heink.

Mr. Siegel is now permanently located in New York and although he dropped the mandolin for ten years he has taken it up again as a result of his association with the Serenaders.

Samuel Siegel is undoubtedly one of the leading mandolin artists of the world today. His ability in execution and tote production is widely known. His radio and recording activities have given him popularity and renown. Mr. Siegel is also a member of Roxy's Gang—and, as you know, none but the best are féatured with Roxy's programs.

Last but not least, friend Sam Siegel is a popular member of the Banjoists, Mendolinists and Guitarists Guild, and I don't doubt in the least but what he will be "among those present" at the Festival and Convention to be held in Hartford on June 11, 12 and 13.

AND WHERE—Hotel Garde, Hartford, Connecticut.
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and why not—Messrs. Bradbury and Bauer are heading it.

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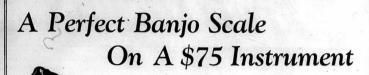
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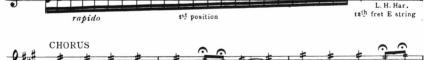
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## Twenty-seventh Annual Guild Festival and Convention to Open at Hartford June 11

THE American Guild of Banjoists, Mandolinists and Guitarists will hold its 27th Annual Festival and Convention at Hartford, Conn., June 11, 12 and 13 with its headquarters at Hotel Garde.

The visiting guilders are certain to enjoy this convention and remember it as one of the most successful, for Hartford is a city that is used to conventions-and music. Hartford is not the biggest town in the United States but it is one of the most important cities in financial and manufacturing affairs. It leads the world as an insurance center, being the home city of the larger companies. With all of these assets it can be seen that a city of 175,000 people must have entertainment after the daily work is over. Three vaudeville houses, countless movie houses, one legitimate house and several "supper clubs" furnished this requisite. For those more aesthetically inclined the concerts of the Hartford Oratorio Society, The Cecelia Club, The Treble Clef Club, The Travelers Symphonic Ensemble, The Hartford Plectral Club and The Hartford Symphony Mandolin Orchestra furnish abundant entertainment. There are several important schools of music with most distinguished faculties among whom are numbered, Aurelio, Ciorni, William Willeke, Robert H. Prutting, Waldo Selden Pratt, John Spencer Camp and other celebrities.

On Sunday, June 10th official registration will take place and scores of fretted instrument friends will then meet players, teachers, composers and members of the trade. Many of them greeting each other for the first time since the convention of last year in New York. Monday morning will open the business session and in the afternoon the educational session will take place. This feature of the convention has always proven to be interesting and affords ample opportunity for discussions. The evening holds in store the Festival Concert.

What promises to be a revelation as well as a complete departure from established precedents will be the numebrs rendered by the Hartford Guild Festival Orchestra to be heard on Monday evening. This mamoth organization of 1,15 musicians is the nucleus of the two well known Hartford Mandolin Orchestras combined for this special occasion.

The orchestra will give many selections never before heard, of which many are famous classics, and the effects produced will be a revelation. A four choired instrumentation will be used. Walter Kaye Bauer and Frank C. Bradbury, the convention managers, are conductors of this mamoth organization. The soloists for this Festival Concert will be Carlo De Filippis of East Orange, N. J., well known concert mandolinist and Victor Recording Artist, Julia Greiner-Holdcroft of N. Y., world famous Mandola Soloist. Alexander Magee, N. Y., celebrated banjo soloist well known in radio circles, George C. Krick, of Pa., the eminent German guitarist, and Charles Rothermel of Chicago, of dynamic personality in the tenor banjo world.

The second business session follows on Tuesday morning, and in the afternoon there will be a conducted tour about the city of Hartford. Tuesday evening the Artists' Recital will be held complimentary to all Guild members in the Y. W. C. A. Auditorium and in its program will appear many prominent artists in classic groups. So far engaged for this recital are the following; William Place, Ir., of Providence, R. I., mandolinist, nationally known as a recording artist for all the leading companies and an authority on the pedagogy of the instrument; Frederick J. Bacon, New London, Conn. the dean of American Banjoists, who will present a group of new selections specially arranged for this occasion; Vivian Place, of R. I. popular harpist, formerly accompanist to Madame Marcella Sembrich; A. William Crookes of Hartford as Mando-cello virtuoso, and Sophocles T. Papas, the Master Guitarist of Washington, D. C., prominent in the radio field.

The closing business session will be held on Wednesday morning and in the afternoon the Educational Session will be continued. In the evening the annual "wind-up" will take place in form of a banquet, including "stunt night" features and informal dancing.

Attention is called to the fact that as this convention directly follows the National Music Trades Convention in New York that a large line of exhibits, open to the public, will be a feature of this occasion.

(Continued on Page 24)

## MANDOLIN

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#### The Banjoists' ROUND TABLE

Conducted by FRANK C. BRADBURY Soloist and Composer

THIS DEPARTMENT is especially for Banjoists. Anyone may ask questions pertaining to the Banjo, or contribute items. Questions or suggestions will receive due,

Address—"Banjoist Round Table", care of The Crescendo.

#### C. M.—Brockton, Massachusetts

I noticed a request in the Crescendo for a list of solos for the standard banjo. Now I am playing quite a lot of the old time music and cannot seem to get annything like it to my liking so I wish you would send me the same kind of list. Thanking you for the same.

#### [ ANSWER ]

As the Round Table has received several letters like the above is would no doubt prove interesting to many banjoists to read a list of solos selected for the banjo, with a view to public performance. Before listing this selection tho' I would like to amend it with the following-that whatever is well liked and selected from the following list must also be varied by the occasional use of arrangements of well known numbers, both standard and popular and also some good adaptable classical numbers. These all to be considered in due regard to the kind of public performance that they are to be used at. Also remember this-that it is always depends on the "man behind the gun" as how a number is going over or not. If a number is well chosen and well delivered it is generally bound to be a success. However many players seems to think that the "chosing" is the important part ot a plan for a public performance and sort of let slide that other important part of the performance-the proper "putting over" and delivery of the number in question.

Also every player has perhaps a "style" of his own and it is for him to take account of stock and consider what is best adaptable for "yours truly." The following list of solos for the banjo are of a wide variety for all kinds of public work. Go to it,-think of your audience, of yourself and then "put it over":-

- Wm. J. Smith & Co. "Banjoland" (Bacon)
  - "Silver Bell" March (Bacon) "Flowers of Spain" Valse (Bradbury)
  - In Modern Method:
    - "Dance of the Hours" (arr. Bradbury)
    - "Rigoletto" Selection (arr. Bradbury)
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"The Banshee" (Grimshaw) "Crackerjack" (Morley)

"You and a Canoe" (Grimshaw)

John Alvey Turner "Narcissus" (Nevin-Hunter) "Dance Arlequin" (Morley)

Arling Shæffer "Catnip" (Burritt) Wm. C. Stahl "Indianjo" (Bradbury) "Monomoy" (Bradbury)

H. F. Odell & Co. "Somewhere In Dixie" (Lansing) "Jaggers" (Dean)

Claude C. Rowden "The Awakening of the Lion" (Kontski-

"Valse" (Durand-Rowden) Rowden) Walter Jacobs "Swing Song" (Lansing)

"The Troopers" (Bacon) These numbers can all be obtained through the publishers of this

Many more splendid selections could be added to the above but I

hope the ones named above will help. With a sprinkling of some popular numbers and arrangements of other well-known standard and semi-classical numbers one ought to be able to arrange a very fitting program for any kind of performance. There are, of course, many of the older numbers (some in the A notation) which are splendid and are always good for some occasions. One splendid solo of this type and a very brilliant and showy number if executed properly is the "Ragioso Rondo" by Eno, Maximum edition. Many of Enos other pieces are also excellent.

#### C. M .- Portland, Maine

How should a note with a dot over it be played on the Tenor Banio?

[ ANSWER ]

This signifies staccato and should be played by releasing the pressure of the left hand finger immediately after the note has been picked. The stroke should be down when possible. In fact, passages the down and up stroke may be used. The point is that the left hand finger itself is not to leave the string but the string must leave the fret against which it is placed. This cuts off the tone and at the same time guards against any foreign tones being sounded. If the note were on an open string use one of the left hand fingers to dampen the string. The term staccato means to cut short.

The Round Table had a discussion a few months ago on the relative merits of the Tenor and the Plectrum banjos. A recent (Continued on Page 28)

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#### Rose F. Rogers

Banjo Artists

These banjo artists, as shown in the photo on the left, have gained wide favor through their broadcasting programs over station WSYR, Syracuse, N. Y. The members of this organization are, left to right: Messrs. Den De Laroche, Mervin Haibt, Joe Aragoni, William Eldridge, Walter Jackson and Ernest Kopplin. Each member is a pupil of Rose R. Rogers, a prominent and progressive teacher in Syracuse, and are professionally couched by her. There is also a ladies guitar ensemble couched by Mrs. Rogers which is also active in radio broadcasting.

#### Wilcox Ensembles Have Busy Season

The Mandolin and Banjo Ensembles under the direction of Mrs. Edna Dole Wilcox, teacher and leader, give notice of an extremely busy season. One of the events which created a considerable amount of publicity was the opening of one of Battle Creek, Michigan's furniture stores. The entertainment included many radio artists from stations WJR, Detroit and WMAQ, Chicago, who appeared in person at this opening event. The afternoon program was furnished by Edna Dole Wilcox, Mandolin and Banjo Ensembles. The evening program included a variety of banjo selections by Barries Banjo Cuartet.

Another event which brought Mrs. Wilcox to the fore was the musical back-ground which she furnished for the presentation of "A Southern Cinderella," a play given by the League Players at the YWCA. The musical group was composed of Mrs. Edna Dole Wilcox, 1st Mandolin; Margaret Newson, 2nd Mandolin; Etta Sawyer, Mandola and Ella Dole, pianist. Local newspaper's acclaimed the music from this group to be "excellent," "added much to the pleasure," and were "enjoyable."

#### CHARM OF MUSIC

"Are you fond of music?"

"Very," answered Senator Sorghum. "At a great gathering it's a great relief to be able to join in a song with absolute confidence that none of the words you utter at this particular moment are likely to be used against you during the campaign."—Washington Star.



#### Gibsonians Open Eighth Annual Concert Tour

Jas. H. Johnstone opened the Eigth Annual Concert Tour in the Adams Opera House of Plainwell, Michigan, as director of the Gibsonians. This organization is widely known for its excellent renditions of popular, classic and operatic selections in solo and ensemble.

The concert was both-interesting and successful, displaying musicianship that gave the impression of careful training and endless study. The program was varied to please all types of listeners, popular, classical and operatic. Solos wer rendered by Mr. Johnstone, tenor banjoist, who is, not only prominent as a player but as a composer and arranger as well. He is also well known in American B. M. G. Guild activities. He was assisted at the concert by R. Dale Cook, popular singer and ukulele player.

The Nicomede Music Company of Altoona, Pa., Publishers of the dollar line of twenty methods and folios of various instruments reports that their original Morris Method for the Tenor Banjo contiues to be their best seller.

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## TANDOLINISTS'

WILLIAM PLACE, JR. Virtualo, Composer and Aut

THIS DEPARTMENT is especially for Mandolinists, and they may ask questions pertaining to the mandolin or contribute items. Questions or suggestions

B. D. G.

I am puzzled in the correct execution of grace notes. Will you please give me some pointers through the Crescendo

[ANSWER]
A Grace note immediately preceding a principal note of time value of such duration that it (the principal note) must be played tremolo is treated as though it were the first stroke of tremolo and is almost always a down stroke, the tremolo continuing on the principal note beginning with an up.

A grace note preceding a principal note of short duration and lower in pitch than the grace note is often played with a down stroke and the principal note is snapped pizzicato with the left hand.

A grace note preceding a principal note of short duration and higher in pitch than the grace note is usually played down stroke on the grace note and up on the principal. Occasionally the principal note is played vibrato, an effect produced by dropping the left finger with great force on the fingerboard causing the note to vibrate

without the use of the plectrum. The foregoing are general rules which will carry one over any but the most unusual types of grace note composition.

Is music procurable for mandolin, flute and guitar? Do you consider this a good combination?

[ ANSWER ]

Mandolin, flute and guitar is not only beautiful but decidedly unusual. Nearly all the standard mandolin orchestra numbers have a flute part and as mandolin orchestrations are arranged to be quite effective in almost any combination you should be able to work out a splendid repertoire. Your guitarist might be able to adapt piano parts effectively and if so many of the standard trios for violin, Flute and harp or violin, flute and piano would be at your disposal.

G. W. E.

Is it permissible to use the thumb on chord playing on the G string of the mandolin? I find it simplifies many chords. [ ANSWER ]

It is never at any time or under any circumstance allowed to use the left thumb upon the mandolin fingerboard. Consider this answer, italicized, capitalized, and doubly underlined.

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In several articles on mandolin playing I find the word "back-stroke." Will you blease inform me just what is meant

the term.

[ANSWER]

To illustrate: suppose one is playing upon the E string. Let us consider that a group of notes with alternate strokes has been executed and the last note played required a down stroke; the following note is upon the A string, which the tempo obliges one to play immediately, if this note is played with an up, it is called a "backstroke." It will be obvious that at the conclusion of the group of notes on the E string, the plectrum is on the further side of the E string and in order to play the required note on the A string quickly, one must swing the plectrum back into position between the E and A strings and play the required note. All of this of course requires but an instant. It is an ungainly bit of technic to say the least, and a good mandolinist will often resort to a brief position change to avoid it. Almost every mandolin method of standing contains a page or two of back-stroke studies, for occasionally they cannot be avoided and one must be technically able to cope with them, but as a rule a back stroke seldom finds its way into the work of a good mandolin player.

H. G. J.

Please give the correct fingering for chromatic scale beginning on open G and finishing three octaves above. I cannot find mandolin books that agree.

[ ANSWER ]

The "Correct" fingering of a chromatic scale depends somewhat upon it's position, the key of the composition, etc. No one can give you a hard and fast rule for chromatic runs indiscriminately. My personal choice of fingering for the run you have suggested is as

G string 0-1-1-2-2-3-3 D string same A string same E string 0-1-1-2-1-2 Continue alternating 1-2 for entire length of scale.

H. J. W.

Will you kindly give us a list of the mandolin, banjo and quitar soloists at the Guild Convention Concerts since the society was organized?

[ ANSWER ]

I have not necessary data in my files and so I am requesting the Editor of the Cresendo to tell us. My memory takes me back to the Newark N. J. concert when Mr. Abt was mandolin soloist and that is farther back than I care to acknowledge vivid recollections. Personally I shall enjoy reminiscing over those pleasant events when Mr. Johnson gives us the data. Thank you!

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#### Guild Convention-from page 20

All persons interested in securing tickets for the festival concert should write direct to Mr. Bradbury, Suite 604, 252 Asylum Street, Hartford, Connecticut. Indications are that a sold out house will greet the orchestra and artists, and the management advises early reservations. To date 700 tickets have been sold which is half of the capacity of th. house. Tickets for the concert are all one price. \$1.15 including tax.

Hotel rates are as follows;—single rooms without bath \$2 and \$2.50; double rooms without bath \$3.50, 4.00 and 5.00; (running water in all rooms); single rooms with bath \$3.00,

The management wishes to inform all Guild members that 3.50 and 4.00; double rooms with bath \$5.00, 6.00 and 7.00. the principle thought in mind in planning this convention was to give the most and the best for the least amount of money June was selected as the logical month for the teachers. to ggt away from their business. A small hotel at reasonable rates was selected to give a more homelike atmosphere.

#### A SERIOUS SITUATION

George Olsen, well known orchestra leader, tells an amusing story of a father in Iowa who came to see him with reference to his son. "I'd like to place him in your band," said the father.

"But why?" asked Olsen.

"I'll tell you," confided the parent. "Since he's bought himself a saxophone we've lost all our friends in town and either he has to leave or we have to go!"

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#### Famous Mandolinist Plays With Hartford Plectral Symphony

The Hartford Symphony Mandolin Orchestra, with Walter Kaye Bauer conducting, appeared in concert March 2nd before a large and enthusiastic audience of faculty members and students in Alumni Hall, Trinity College. Samuel Siegol, internationally famous mandolinist and a member of Roxy's Gang, was a surprise guest artist, and his work was acclaimed. Miss Gertrude F. Hugins, soprano, sang two delightful selections.

The program was opened with the Coronation March from Meyerbeer's "Le Prophete," arranged by Bauer. As a second selection the orchestra played the largo from Dvorak's "New World Symphony," also arranged by Mr. Bauer. Both numbers were played with fine expression.

Mr. Bauer then offered two mandolin solos, a mazurka Salve Dr. So, by Calace, and "Cappriccio Spagnuolo," by Munier. He was accompanied by Miss Gertrude Hugiffs at the piano. Miss Hugins sang "A Spray of Roses," by Sanderson, and "In the Garden of Tomorrow" by Deppen.

Two mando-cello solos, Nevin's "Mighty Lak a Rose" and "Un Pen D'Amour," by Silesu, were played by Joseph Kowal-cyk, accompanied by Miss Hugins at the piano, and the first half of the program was closed by the ensemble's playing of a prelude in C sharp minor, by Rachmaninoff, and "Polianka," a Cossak dance, by Ivanoff-Bauer.

The second half of the program was opened by the orchestra with Chopin's "Polonaise Militaire" and Les Hallebardiers Passent" (by request). Bara-Bauer.

#### Siegel Introduced

Mr. Bauer introduced Samuel Siegel, famous recording and radio mandolinist and member of Roxy's Gang in New York. Mr. Siegel played several of his own compositions. "Lullaby," "Come All Ye Disconcerted," a hymn, and "Chieses Song," which he wrote while in China several years ago.

Mr. Siegel's mastery of the instrument resulted in such a reception that he was forced to respond with a modern dance tune assisted by Mr. Bauer.

The ensemble then played an overture, "Fairy Gold," by Merz. Two tenor banjo solos by Anthony Loprate followed 'Ole South," by Zameenikauer, and "The Water Bug" by Miles-Bauer. Miss Olive Guerton accompanied him at the piano. The concert was closed with the playing of the Trinity alma mater, "Neath the Elms." The offcers of the orchestra are Professor John E. Foglesong, president, James T. Nichols, vice-president, Miss Ida Baumstein, secretary-treasurer, Clifford C. Varney, publicity manager, Mrs. Clifford C. Varney, auditor, and Miss Minnie F. Scharr, librarian.

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#### The 'UITARISTS' ROUND TABLE

Conducted by HDAH OLCOTT-BICKFORD Virtuoso, Composer

THIS DEPARTMENT is especially for Guitarists, but anyone may ask ques-I Guitarists, but anyone may ask ques-tions pertaining to the guitar or contribut-items. Questions or suggestions will re-Address-"Guitarists Round Table," care of The Crescendo.

#### R. F. L.-Chicago, Illinois

1. While living in the country (only recently having come to this city), I took a Correspondence Course in guitar. The following questions they never did make clear to me. Will you please answer them for me?

This example (No.1), is taken from one of N. Coste's. compositions. Now this note F would receive the same time value as the bass note D# below if the slide should be completed. How could this be when bass D# is an eigth note while the treble F is a sixteenth? The F would get the same value as the bass Dt.

2 In Ex. 2 should the accompaniment notes be silenced after being given their time value, or can they sound throughout the measure softly? This matter of accompanying notes is what puzzles me. Playing strictly to the value of these notes seems to obstruct the tone. In Ex. 3 can the G# sound softly up to the time the treble F# is picked?



[ ANSWER ] 1. In playing guitar music it must always be remembered that the guitar is a complete harmony instrumeunt like the piano, in that it can play a melody and an accompaniment at the same time and even add other inner voices. However, instead of being written on two clefs, as is piano music, guitar music must all be gotten on the one clef and this is evidently the phase of it that is troubling you. In Ex. 1, the melody is composed of every other note with the upturned stem, while the intermediate note, B, occurring between each such melody note, is not the melody, but as inner voice of the accompaniment. Thus it is correct that the melody notes should sing or be sustained, until the next one is sounded. This little phrase is composed of tenths, with the intermediate B singing through and the effect when correctly played is as if the pedal were being used on the piano for the melody notes. The passage would be more correctly written, however, (according to the way it sounds and is supposed by the composer to sound), had the top or melody notes been written as eigth notes and the B each time it occurs written with a down-turned stem as a sixteenth note in the bass, so that the sixteenth and eigth notes would be reversed from the way they now appear. However, often our good and even famous writers (of which the illustrious Nap. Coste was one), often wrote music in this fashion. The main thing for the player to remember is that the music for guitar. no matter how complicated, has to be written on the one clef and to also remember that while we have no pedal like the piano to further sustain a tone, it is done, as in

this case, by allowing the left hand fingers to remain on the notes until they blend into the next note or notes. I trust that I have made this clear to you. As you encounter more compositions and become ever more familiar with your instruments, you will recognize the bass and other accompaniment and be able to pick it out at once from the melody.

In Ex. 2, you are playing in what is often termed chord position. That is, there is a melody and the accompaniment is all in the chord of the G7th, or in other words, in the same harmony. In all such cases, the notes should be retained on the notes comprising the chord, (or harmony) throughout the measure or measures while they last unless it should be necessary to shift the position of the hand to obtain one of the melody notes, which is not necessary in this case. This is fully explained in The Olcott-Bickford Guitar Method and material given for cuch practice. This again is the same effect that is obtained on the piano by the use of the pedal. We get the effect on the guitar by sustaining the notes comprising the harmony for as long a time as they will sustain, or in other words, during the time that the same harmony is used for the accompaniment.

In Ex. 3, the first three notes are taken by a Barre of the first finger on the first fret and thus each one will naturally sound or sustain until the string on which they are made is used again to make another note, as occurs with the B\$ when the G\$ is made. The G\$, however, which you mention, is really not stopped, nor is the lowest D# or first note of the passage until the highest F# is played and the hand is lifted to be ready for the following E, and you will also note that there is the rest under the high F\$ to indicate that the hand may then be lifted off the Barre, which should have been held down up to that time.

I trust that I have made these matters clear, for they are important ones and have a great deal to do with the legato and smooth playing on the guitar. Any time I am able to help you through this department, I shall be happy to do so.

#### T. W. O.-Minneapolis, Minnesota

Will you please give the date of the death of Boccherini and also tell if his Quintet in D for guitar and string quartet has ever had a public performance in America and if so who gave it the first performance here?

Boccherini died on May 28th, 1805, so he has been dead a hundred and twenty-three years and it will be a revelation to most guitarists to see from his music what a high standard the guitar had attained in his day and what a fine technician he must have been on the instrument to have written as he did for it in his fine Quintets. The first Quintet in D was given its first public performance in America in December, 1923, by the Zoellner Quartet assisted by Vahdah Olcott-Bickford, guitarist at the Zoellner Biltmore Concert Series in Los Angeles, California. Since then it has been performed several times by Vahdah Olcott-Bickford, guitarist with other quartets in Los Angeles and other California cities. There is no other program record at hand as to its having been performed elsewhere. At the height of Boccherini's career he was feted by royalty and his chamber music was mentioned with that of Haydn (who was also a guitarist and wrote for the guitar.) Boccherini is said to have been one of the most fertile composers of all time and as his music is very beautiful it is regrettable that he is chiefly known today by the popular mind as the composer of the Celebrated Minuet. Pablo Casals, the greatest of 'cellists, brought his 'cello Concerto to America for some wonderful performances two or three years ago.

(Continued on Page 27)

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I.	(a) Coronation March (From Le Prophete) Meyerbeer-Bauer
	(b) Largo (From Symphony No. 5, Aus Der Neuen Welt)
	Dvorak—Bauer
	(c) Les Hallebardiers Passent Bara-Bauer
	The Orchestra
2,	"Echo" Weisei
	Women's Chorus, Mme. Yvonne Beauregard, at the piano
3.	Reading—"When Archie Goes to Luncheon"
4.	Mandola Soli Mr. Alex. C. Galarneau
	(a) Fair Debutante Reynard-Bauer
	(b) By the Waters of Minnetonka Lieurance
	Miss Ida Baumstein at the piano
5.	Overture—"Fairy Gold" Merz The Orchestra
6.	Mandolin Soli Mr. Walter Kaye Bauer
-	Mazurka Polacca (From Suite Op. 53) Calace
	Cappriccio Spagnuolo
	Miss Gertrude F. Hugins at the piano
7.	(a) "My Love Dwelt in a Northern Land" Elgar
	(b) "Woo Thou Sweet Music" Elgar
	Women's Chorus, Mme. Yvonne Beauregard at the piano
8.	Reading

Adele King 9. Mando-Cello Soli ...... Mr. Joseph F. Kowalcyzk "Mighty Lak A Rose" ...... Nevin

"Un Peau d'Amour ...... Silesu Miss Hugins at the piano 10. (a) "Out of the East She Came" ...... Ralph Cox (b) "Win'-a-Blowin' Gentle" ...... Roma Womens Chorus, Mme Yvonne Beauregard at the piano 11. Tenor Banjo Soli ...... Mr. Anthony J. Loprate

"Ole South" ...... Zamecnik—Bauer "The Water Bug ...... Miles-Bauer Miss Olive Guertin at the piano 12. "Polianka," Ural Cossack Dance ...... Ivanoff-Bauer "Prelude" in C sharp Minor ...... Rachmaninoff

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#### Guitarists' Round Table-from page 25

T. T. P.-Oneida, New York

Will you give the names of some guitarists of note in the past who were women? We seldom hear about any of these and yet the guitar seems to be an instrument that makes a strong appeal to women and is not less graceful and charming than the harp in the hands of a woman.

Among the most noted woman guitarists of the past was Emilia Giuliani, who was the daughter of the illustrious Mauro Giuliani, She toured in many of the European capitals and wrote some very fine music for the instrument, most of which is out of print. 'Another famous guitarist of the past was Mme. Sidney Pratten, who was born Catherina Josepha Pelzer, also a daughter of a famous guitarist, Ferdinand Pelzer. She was a child prodigy on the guitar and played duets with Giulio Regondi when a small child. She afterward married Sidney Pratten, the world-famous flutist and lived in London where she had among her pupils members of royalty and other distinguished people. The greatest French guitarist of all time, Napoleon Coste, was taught the guitar by his mother. It was the Duchess Amelia who introduced the guitar into Germany. Perhaps one reason why we do not hear so much of the women guitarists is the same as the reason that we do not hear so much of women in other lines,-for after all, we live in "a man's world" as the saying goes, even in the twentieth century! Again, it was Queen Elizabeth, called the greatest sovereign England ever had, who furthered to such a great extent the guitar or rather its predecessor, the lute, in England in its most flowery days of art, literature and music. Mary, Queen of Scots, was a very good lutist, also, as was Marie Antoinette of France, and the Empress Josephine, wife of Napoleon Bonaparte was an accomplished guitarist. In those days you will, of course, realize women did not enter the professional world as they do in these days and that, of course, accounts for the fact that few of them come down to us as famous through the centuries.

E. T. A.—Indianapolis, Indiana

It would be very interesting to me if you would give. through The Guitarists' Round Table, a series of biographical sketches of the various old masters of the quitar. I find it impossible to find any material of consequence along these lines, such as we are accustomed to seeing about the other great music masters and feel that guitarists would take a greater interest in the literature of their instrument if they could know more about it and of the great masters of the quitar who have left this for the quitarists of the present day. Would it be possible to give such a series in this department? I am sure that you, above all others, are qualified to write such a series and I feel that I am not alone in desiring such articles. In fact, I have talked to other students who are as interested as I in knowing more about the great masters of the instrument of the past. A short time ago you had an interesting sketch about Carulli in repy to a question, which I enjoyed immensely, and I would like to know still more of the work and life of this great old master, as well as of many of the others.

It has been the policy of the Editor of the Grescendo to devote the Guitarists' as well as the other Round Table department, to answering questions exclusively, but no doubt if there is sufficient demand from the readers for such biographies as you request it would be possible to run such a series in another department of the magazine or in the Guitarists' Round Table, as you suggest, whichever meets with the approval of the Editor. Perhaps the best way would be to call on those who would be interested in such a series to write Vahdah Olcott-Bickford in care of The Guitarist' Round Table, the liling just which guitarists they wish to know more about, etc. So I will expect to hear from those who wish such a series, telling me those old masters they are most interested in knowing more about.

## B&D "Silver Bell" Broadcasters



This month it may interest the readers to know about the many shipments of B & D Silver Bell Banjos sent to the far north-western city of Portland, Oregon.

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#### Banjoists' Round Table-from page 21

letter just received from B. Sheldon Green of Sydney, Australia on this subject is so interesting that it is reproduced herewith. Mr. Green is a well-known banjoist and a "live-wire" as is shown by his letter which follows: "I am writing this in appreciation of the tactful manner in which you have handled the subject of Tremolo, and also to let you know that I fully endorse the remarks regarding the advantages of each kind of Banjo.

How any musician (?) in his sober senses can say that open harmony is preferable to close harmony for rhythmic purposes beats me; and another thing which is beyond my understanding (or perhaps I should say beyond my ear) is this idea of preferring playing rhythm (on the long-arm) at between the fifth and fifteenth frets. Sakes alive! what are they trying to get at? Are there not enough notes in that register without putting the Banjo in to make it the buffoon of the show? Inversions have their uses (as heaps of other things have) and this higher register can be used with excellent effect in appropriate places-but to confine rhythm to it-well, as I have already stated, it beats me clean,

This is my primary objection to the Tenor banjo as a Rhythmic instrument, and the extended harmony is a very good second. In many cases fellows advise the use of certain instruments simply because they happen to be fairly proficient on them.

Four note chords have been very queerly championed in an English Banjo Journal: the writer says that three note chords are

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Prices are net, postpaid. JACOB VOLLMAR Charlotte Sta., Rochester, N.Y. unt to Dealers and Teachers. Send for complete discriptive circular. like a piano piece without a bass-what do you think of that for a comparison? Personally I prefer a big preponderance of three note chords, leaving heavier instruments to attend to the fourth note.

Besides, its jolly difficult to get over a whole string of four note chords and have them ring out acceptably.

Another important thing I would like to touch on here is this:-Some professionals and teachers are advising students to clip their chords, by raising the fingers of the left hand, in order to give a snappy effect. I have no patience with this method being over used as it is. For one thing it enables fakers to play any old "bum" chord and get "away with it"-and (this is really my point) this effect should be produced by correct plectrum work. In plain words-the right hand should do the work and not the left.

In my humble opinion the cause of all this trouble is found in the fact that the average plectrum banjo player is not expert enough, and that those who do the orchestrating have never taken the trouble to learn anything about the possibilities of the long-arm. When these two defects are attended to we shall, perhaps, get good banjo parts (and there will be no doubt as to which kind of banjo is meant). I like the tenor very well for some things (perhaps you would not mind mentioning that Wm. C. Stahl has some of my MSS. in hand at the present time) -in fact, better than the plectrum. The fact that the two octaves lie well under the fingers at any fret mean a lot to a player who knows how to take advantage of it. Similarly, in some forms of Duo the open harmony lends itself to fine arrange

Now let me say a few words for the finger style of playing. I prefer the finger style of playing by a "long chalk". Those of us who are proficient in this style know that our proficiency has been gained by travelling over a very rocky road, and it's the rocks which taught us "stick-to-it-ness". The present day player is too keen for something easy and fairly effective-effort bores him, and hard work terrifies him

Besides, the older players took up playing as a hobby and a pastime, whereas every young player now-a-days has an eye on the money prospect, which accounts for the haste in the studio, and for the everincreasing number of quacks who claim to make players in a stipulated number of lessons. A few take pains with the lessons and of course, get the preference when players are required.

I have written more than I had intended at first, but when I get started on the war-path I never know when to call a halt.

Yours truly, B. Sheldon-Green.

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