

Review

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Sonata in G minor. For Violin and Pianoforte. By Dorothea Hollins. [Vienna: Ludwig Doblinger.]

THERE is much merit in this Sonata, and of a kind which will recommend itself to musicians as well as to those possessing less intimate acquaintance with the art. It is in the usual four movements, which, by their directness of expression and rhythmic accentuation, are essentially English in character. The chief subject of the opening movement partakes of the nature of an English country dance, which is tantamount to saying that it possesses considerable vivacity. The second movement opens with a suave melody, and its effectiveness is heightened by an episode of a declamatory kind. The *Scherzo* is bright and gay, and the *Finale* possesses considerable vigour. As a whole the composition shows well-trained talent, and is worthy of the attention of performers.

Pièces Characteristiques. For Violin and Pianoforte. By J. A. de Orellana. [Schott and Co.]

THESE pieces consist of a Berceuse, Serenade, and Gavotte. They are melodious, easy to play, and decidedly pleasing. Much taste and fancy is shown in the pianoforte part.

MUSIC IN BELFAST.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE musical season may be said to have begun here with the advent of the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company, which opened a week's engagement in our New Grand Opera House, on the 14th ult. A Wagnerian wave may be said to have passed over us, seeing that out of seven performances four have been devoted to the works of the prophet of Bayreuth, and, to the credit of the city be it added, were all well attended. The opening performance was "Tannhäuser," with Mr. E. C. Hedmond in the title-rôle, Miss Rita Elandi as *Elizabeth*, Mr. Alec Marsh as *Wolfram*, and the minor characters filled with that regard for *ensemble* which marks the performances of this Company. Mr. Richard Eckhold conducted. On Tuesday "Carmen" was put on, with Mdlle. Zelig de Lussan in the title-rôle, Mr. Philip Brozel as *José*, and Mr. Alec Marsh as *Escamillo*. On Wednesday night we had for the first time in English here Wagner's "Die Meistersinger" with a strong cast, including Mr. E. C. Hedmond, Mr. Ludwig, Mr. Tilbury, Mr. William Paull, Mr. Homer Lind, and Mr. Frank Wood, with Miss Alice Esty and Miss Kirkby Lunn among the ladies. Thursday evening saw a fine performance of Wagner's "Flying Dutchman," with Mr. Ludwig in his great conception of the weird hero. "Tannhäuser" was repeated at the *Matinée* on Friday, with Mr. Philip Brozel in the title-rôle, and Mr. William Paull as *Wolfram*, the rest of the cast as at its first performance. The house was crowded. The evening performance was Ambrose Thomas's "Mignon." On Saturday night the apparently inseparable "Cavalleria Rusticana" and Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci" brought the series of performances to a close.

For the forthcoming season I understand extensive engagements have been made by the Philharmonic Society, and it is whispered that the season's Concerts will include Mendelssohn's "Elijah" and Berlioz's "Faust." Mr. Louis Mantell has also made arrangements to give some twenty popular Concerts in connection with his Saturday night series.

MUSIC IN BIRMINGHAM.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ALL arrangements for our approaching musical season are now completed, and it promises to be of unusual interest. The Birmingham Festival Choral Society, which is entering upon its thirty-seventh concert season, has issued a most attractive scheme for its forthcoming four Subscription Concerts. Much interest is attached to the Jubilee performance of Mendelssohn's "Elijah," which will take place in the Town Hall, on the 8th inst., with Madame Marie Duma, Madame Belle Cole, Messrs. Iver McKay and Ffrangcon-Davies as principals. The Committee are

making strenuous efforts to secure the help and attendance of any survivors who took part in the original performance in the Town Hall, August 26, 1846. At the second Concert, on November 19, Dr. Heap's cantata "The Maid of Astolat" will be given; at the third Concert, Dvorák's "Spectre's Bride" and Parry's "Blest Pair of Sirens"; and at the fourth and last Concert, a Handelian selection from "Israel in Egypt," "Acis and Galatea," and "Solomon." The list of principals for the series will also include Madame Ella Russell, Miss Anna Williams, Miss Medora Henson, Madame Marie Hooton, Miss Ada Crossley; Messrs. Henry Piercy, Edwin T. Morgan, Edward Branscombe, Davies Hughes, David Bispham, and Watkin Mills.

Messrs. Harrison's four Subscription Concerts, the first of which will take place in the Town Hall, on the 5th inst., embrace a long array of famed artists, the list being headed by Madame Nordica. For the first time Señor Sarasate will appear at one of the Subscription Concerts.

Mr. Stockley enters upon his twenty-third season of Orchestral Concerts, and will produce during the season several important works not heard here previously, the most noteworthy of which are Dvorák's new Symphony, "From the New World," Saint-Saëns's new Symphony, and Scharwenka's "Andante Religioso." The principal vocalists and instrumentalists at these Concerts include Madame Amy Sherwin, Madame Clara Samuell, Madame Duma, and Mr. Andrew Black; Mr. John Dunn and Mr. Max Mossel (violinists), Mr. Ivan Mossel (violoncellist), Madame Ivan Mossel, Mr. Leonard Borwick, and Dr. Winn (pianists). Four interesting Drawing-room Concerts will also be given during the season by Mr. Max Mossel, the talented Dutch violinist. Engagements for these have been made with M. Eugene Ysaye, the eminent Belgian violinist; M. de Greef, the pianist; Mdlle. Clotilde Kleeburg, Madame Ivan Mossel, and Mr. Ivan Mossel. In the vocal department we are promised the co-operation of Mrs. Henschel, Mrs. Helen Trust, Miss Hamcutt, Mdlle. Pauline Manifurgus, and Mr. George Henschel.

The Midland Musical Society, under Mr. Stevenson's conductorship, have decided to produce this season the "Elijah," "Samson," "St. Paul," and the "Redemption."

The band of Her Majesty's 1st Life Guards, under Mr. Joel Engelfield, gave two Concerts at the Moseley Botanical Gardens on the 10th ult. The programme included the ever-popular three Dances from "Henry VIII.," selections from Meyerbeer's "Le Prophète," the "Artist's Model," the "Mikado," and a Wagner selection.

An extraordinary success was achieved at the Prince of Wales's Theatre with the "Geisha." An excellent all-round company was responsible for its production, the cast including Miss Geraldine Ulmar, Miss Marie Studholme, Mr. Bertie Wright, and Mr. Rutland Barrington.

MUSIC IN DUNDEE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ALTHOUGH the list of Concerts for the coming season is still incomplete, we have already the promise of many good things. The Dundee Amateur Choral Union will give two Concerts, as usual. The works chosen for the first are Rossini's "Stabat Mater" and Goring Thomas's post-humous work, "The Swan and the Skylark." The soloists for this Concert are Miss Maggie Davies, Miss Jeannie Rankin, and Messrs. Lloyd Chandos and W. A. Peterkin.

Under the management of Messrs. Paterson, Sons and Co. there will be a subscription series of three Scottish Orchestral Concerts, and a Pianoforte Recital by Mr. Eugene d'Albert, as well as two Military Concerts by the Band of the 1st Life Guards, which opened the season on the 19th ult.

There will be three Harrison-Simpson Subscription Concerts, at the first of which Madame Patti will appear. A long array of well-known artists is also included in this series. Messrs. Methven, Simpson and Co. promise, in addition, a Recital by M. Siloti, in December.

Concerts by local musicians are likely to be more numerous than ever. The Dundee Orchestral Society, the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and the Scottish Musical Society will each give the usual number and will produce