

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

KOUSSEVITZKY, Serge, Musical Conductor; born at Tver, Russia, July 26, 1874; son of Alexander and Anne (Barabeitchik) Koussevitzky; graduated Master of Free Arts, Philharmonic Conservatory, Moscow, 1894; LL.D., Harvard, 1929; Mus. Dr. Brown Un., 1926; Rutgers Un. 1927; Yale Un. 1928; Rochester Un. 1940; Williams College, 1943; Boston Un. 1945; Princeton Un. 1947. On September 8, 1905, he married Natalie Ouchkoff. Dr. Koussevitzky was double-bass virtuoso and soloist in the Imperial Theatre Orchestra, Moscow, from 1894 to 1897, when he became a Professor in the Moscow Conservatory. In 1898 he made his first European appearance as double-bass soloist in Berlin; debut as conductor with Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, 1907. In 1909, he founded with his wife the publishing firm of "Editions Russes de Musique", the entire profits of which went to Russian Composers; founded the Koussevitzky Symphony Orchestra of 85 musicians, Moscow, 1910, and was Conductor until 1918. In 1917 he was appointed Director of the State Symphony Orchestra in Russia, and in 1918 was appointed Director of the Grand Opera in Moscow; founded "Concerts Koussevitzky" in Paris, 1921, and was Director and Conductor to 1928. He has been Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra since 1924; directed the Berkshire Symphonic Festival, 1936-41, and in 1938 initiated the Berkshire Music Center, of which he has been Director since 1940. In 1942 in memory of his wife, who died on Jan. 11, 1942, he founded the Koussevitzky Music Foundation to assist composers and for other cultural and educational needs.. In the summer of 1942 it sponsored the Berkshire Music Center and commissioned works to four composers. He has received many honors; was twice decorated by the Czar of Russia in 1903; created Knight of the Legion of Honor (France) in 1924, Officer in 1930 and Commander in 1936; decorated with Cross of Commander of the Order of White Rose (Finland); honorary member of American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1934. His social affiliations include the Harvard and Tavern Clubs Boston, and the Bohemians and Lotos Clubs, New York. His hobbies are reading, drama and philosophy. He has composed a Concerto for double-bass and Orchestra, transcriptions from classical works, and many pieces for double-bass and piano.. Publications; "Poetry and Music"; "Concerning Interpretation"; remarks About American Orchestra; Essays on Brahms and Debussy. Residence: 191 Buckminster Road, Brookline, Massachusetts. Office: Symphony Hall, Boston, Massachusetts.

SERGE KOUSSEVITZKY

Es con legitimo orgullo que presentamos a un maestro de extraordinario talento y popularidad universal. Nos referimos a Serge Koussevitzky, director de la Orquesta Sinfonica de Boston, cuyo arte extraordinario palpita con vibraciones dinamicas en sus Discos RCA Victor de Sello Rojo.

Serge Koussevitzky, musico de amplia vision e inagotable entusiasmo, nacio en una pequena provincia de la Rusia Central, Deseando ingresar en el Conservatorio de Moscu, pero careciendo de fondos suficientes para llevar a cabo sus deseos, este joven musico domino con rapidez pasmosa el contrabajo, a fin de obtener una beca que estaba abierta para un ejecutante de este instrumento. Muy pronto Serge Koussevitzky llego a ser el primer virtuoso del contrabajo de su tiempo. Habiendo alcanzado fama mundial por sus magicas ejecuciones, en las cuales se destacaba la riqueza de sus maravillosos matices tonales, dirigio su atencion primordial al instrumento mas expresivo de todos, o sea, la direccion de una gran orquesta. Sus interpretaciones, que tipifican la individualidad personal de este gran musico, sin menoscabar por ningun concepto las intenciones del compositor, han electrizado al publico musicologo de Europa, a grado tal que el nombre de Koussevitzky ha llegado a ser el simbolo de la perfeccion suprema en materia musical.

Aportando en 1924 su genio magnetico a la ya famosa Orquesta Sinfonica de Boston, este gigante de la musica ha elevado su renombrada orquesta a las regiones sublimes de la gloria. En el pasado los Discos RCA Victor de Sello Rojo han puesto al alcance inmediato de Ud. la Edad de Oro de la Opera, pero ahora estos mismos discos simbolizan la Edad de Oro de la Musica Sinfonica, segun queda exteriorizado por el variado repertorio que ha grabado la Orquesta Sinfonica de Boston, bajo la magistral batuta de su ilustre maestro, Dr. Koussevitzky.

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