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London

Philharmonic Society

Press Dec. 3^d 1926

~~Hagen~~ C^{to} Boccherini

Cond. Arbois

experiences in other countries in South
Wales. Daily Chronicle 3 Dec

SPANISH MUSIC AT QUEEN'S HALL.

Finely Interpreted Under Senor
Arbos's Conducting.

The Royal Philharmonic Society's concert at Queen's Hall last night had a Spanish interest, with a Spanish conductor, Senor Arbos, a Spanish soloist, Senor Casals, the 'cellist, and a work of a Spanish composer, the "Iberia" of Albeniz, in the programme.

Senor Arbos is the director of the Madrid Philharmonic Orchestra. He has fine authority and individuality of interpretation, both in classical and modern music.

An exquisite Sarabande, Gigue and "Badinerie" of Corelli (most beautifully played) was followed by a piece of modern musical impressionism, Respighi's "Fountains of Rome." Later in the programme came works by Ravel and Stravinsky. The Albeniz Suite "Iberia" is well known in its original form as piano music; the orchestral version played last night was by Senor Arbos.

Senor Casals was heard in a Boccherini concerto.

OVATION FOR CASALS.

"Daily Express" Music Critic.

Unusual enthusiasm was displayed last night by a large audience which gathered in the Queen's Hall to hear Casals play under a new conductor, Fernandez Arbos, at the Philharmonic Society's concert.

Casals played a concerto for violoncello by Boccherini with such astonishing virtuosity and delicacy of expression that he was recalled again and again, and was at last obliged to give an encore. Albeniz's suite "Iberia," orchestrated by the conductor, was also warmly received.

Senor Arbos is, like Casals, a Spaniard. He made his debut at the St. James' Hall as a violinist in 1892.

THE PRINCE CHARLESTONS.

The Prince of Wales attended a dance last night held by the North Lambeth branch of the British Legion in the Princes Hall, Lambeth Baths. When he arrived it was necessary for the committee to force a passage through the crowd of dancers to enable the Prince to reach the platform.

He danced a number of times with Miss Lila Huckle, at first doing fox-trot steps, but, finding that their steps suited each other, the Prince launched out into the Charleston.

TOTALISATOR "ILLEGAL."

Lord Lonsdale, referring to the totalisator proposal at the dinner of the Gimcrack Club at York last night, said: "I think it will be found to be illegal, and that until it is thoroughly explained and the details gone into it will not be allowed by the Jockey Club."

Mr. James Meirose, chairman of the York Races Committee, who is in his ninety-ninth year, presided.

The Daily Express
Dec. 3rd 1926

THE PHILHARMONIC CONCERT.

ITALIAN AND SPANISH MUSIC.

Teutonic music was absent from the programme of the Philharmonic concert last night at Queen's Hall. Señor Fernandez Arbos returned to conduct a number of pieces in whose making the southern sun had played a part. The strings of the orchestra, who opened the concert with a little suite of Corelli, were not able at once to shake off the influence of November. In Respighi's "The Fountains of Rome," however, they caught from the conductor something of the requisite sparkle, and, drenching us with sound, showed once more the extraordinary power of music to portray things seen with the eye. Later in the programme we were to learn how very much more successful music is in depicting a scene than in reproducing the sounds that belong to that scene. Albeniz's suite for piano "Iberia" easily calls up pictures of Spain by little suggestive touches. When these touches are elaborated by orchestration into assertions which a deaf ear cannot miss, the picture begins to dissolve. Three numbers were played, and of them "Evocacion" and "Triana" gained by the added colour, but "El Corpus en Sevilla" lost by having its noises—bands, bells, hymns, and the rest—literally transcribed. On the piano they can only be suggested and they make a picture; in the orchestra they appear in a too solid reality and the picture is shattered.

The transcription of Albeniz was made by Señor Arbos, in accordance with the expressed desire of the composer that they should be orchestrated; the orchestration of Ravel's "Alborado del Gracioso" is the composer's own. In neither case, therefore, was there involved any question of the ethics of this much-questioned practice. Ravel has put on his colour heavily. Señor Arbos's is the cleverer piece of work. The concert ended with two dances from *L'Oiseau de Feu*, which now bring no furrow to any brow, but if it sounds placid to-day, it also shows no signs of wear.

Among this highly coloured modern music came a sober 18th-century work in the shape of a violoncello concerto by Boccherini played by Señor Pablo Casals. It had nothing to recommend it save a touch of feeling in the slow movement, and nothing to redeem it from dullness save the incomparable playing of the soloist, who, if he cared, could model a phrase on a tambourine or make a triangle sound mellow. Boccherini wrote the notes, but it was Señor Casals who breathed life into them through his bow. We hope no one else will try to repeat the miracle.

SALE OF WIRELESS BATTERIES

[The report of Parliament appears
on page 14.]
Morning Post. Dec. 3^d
1926

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC

Disappointing Playing at Third Concert

The two earlier Philharmonic concerts were in their different ways so delightful that the third, which took place at the Queen's Hall last night, was a sad disappointment. Indeed, except for Casals' playing of the slow movement and the Cadenzas in the Boccherini Concerto there was nothing wholly satisfactory about it at all. The Boccherini, though it has some pretty passages, cannot be said to be an adequate frame for the genius of a man like Casals.

The two main items of the programme, Respighi's "Fountains of Rome" and Albeniz's "Iberia" suite (a set of piano pieces heavily orchestrated by Señor Arbos, the conductor of the evening) might be welcomed as the *hors d'œuvre* or the *soufflée* in a musical dinner, but they cannot possibly pass as a joint or even a substantial entrée. And neither the little Corelli pieces, charming as they were, nor a couple of dances from Stravinsky's "Oiseau de Feu," could be said to supply the deficiency.

Then, as if the programme did not in itself leave enough to be desired, the Philharmonic Orchestra took upon itself to interpret it badly. I write the "Philharmonic Orchestra," but I am informed that quite a number of the gentlemen who are supposed to constitute that august body, were absent. Presumably they were engaged on some other more important or lucrative business, because our orchestral players reserve the right to provide service by deputy on the apparent principle that one orchestral player, like a piece of soap or cheese, is as good as another.

In the circumstances, then, it is impossible to know whether the conductor or the constitution of the orchestra was responsible for the ugly tone, the often noticeable inaccuracy, and the always insensitive and flaccid rhythm of the playing. However, most of the audience seemed to enjoy the concert, so all is for the best in the best of all possible musical worlds.

F. T.

HOUSES AND ESTATES.

IMPORTANT WEST-END DEAL.

That important block of buildings in Burlington-gardens, forming the frontage between Cork-street and Old Burlington-street, in which the Ladies' Army and Navy Club has its present home, and which includes the well-nown Bristol Hotel, has just changed hands through Messrs. Collins and Collins, of South Andley-street. It has passed to a north-country syndicate, for the members of which Messrs. Rutter, of Charing-cross-road, acted, and the price paid is believed to approach £200,000. The deal comprises the freehold and all the leases. From the information that is available it is gathered that the property, which is of substantial construction and of a good height, almost facing the northern entrance to the Burlington-arcade, will not be pulled down, but that it will undergo considerable reconstruction soon after Christmas. Shops are to form the ground floor, and for these, on account of their first-class position, there will no doubt be a keen demand.

Messrs. Knight, Frank, and Rutley, of Hanover-square, have fixed Jan. 13 for the auction at Maidstone of Addington Park and 263 acres, situated three miles from Wrotham Station. They have been instructed by Lady Henry to sell Park-wood, Henley-on-Thames, a modern residence in Elizabethan style in grounds containing landscape gardens and a swimming pool. The estate runs to 783 acres, with three agricultural holdings and nineteen cottages, and Messrs. Simmons and Sons, of Reading and Henley, are jointly concerned in the sale.

When the Winsford estate, Somerset, of 5,000 acres, lately disposed of by the Right Hon. Francis Dyke Acland, of Killerton, Exeter, was brought under the hammer this week by Messrs. Duncan B. Gray and Partners, of Mount-street, York, and Leicester, Mr. Philip Everard bought for £425 Winsford Hill, one of the most beautiful parts of Exmoor, and covering 1,300 acres. On this hill which is leased to the National Trust, is the Long Stone to the "kinsman of Caractacus." Several of the tenants purchased their holdings.

Messrs. Petty, Son, and Prestwich, of Leytonstone, Wanstead, and South Woodford, have recently concluded the private sales, for a total of £21,000, of 12, Leyspring-road, 61, Forest-drive West, 9, Poppleton-road, Forest Villa, Highstone, 216, High-road (with Messrs. Cockett, Henderson and Gillow), 65, Forest-road, Brierley House, 1, Brierley-road, 234, High-road, a new house in Beacontree-road, 147, Norman-road, 82, Bushwood, and Dorothy House, 16, Fillebrook-road, Leytonstone; 42, Leigh-road, Leyton; 27, Ches-
 and 71, Mornington-road, 32, Langley-dri-

HEATH AND SALTER (at Guildford)—Surrey— £475 W

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NIGHT OF SPANISH MUSIC

Success of Philharmonic Society Concert

"Spanish night" with the Philharmonic Society at Queen's Hall last night was a very joyous occasion.

The music was full of the warmth and languor of the South, and the presence of the two great Spaniards—Fernandez Arbos to conduct and Pablo Casals to play the 'cello as perhaps no other man can—drew an audience which included many distinguished foreigners now in London.

The outstanding number of last night was three movements of the "Iberia" Suite of Albeniz, which at the request of the composer, who died a short time ago, Senor Arbos arranged for orchestra.

DOCTOR FORGOES HIS FEES

For the benefit of the New Health Society, of which he is president, Sir William Arbuthnot Lane has decided to forgo all his fees, including those received for Press articles.

Daily Sketch
Dec. 3rd 1926