

SOCIETY ASSISTS MUSIC WORLD IN TRIBUTE TO AUER

By L. A. FERNSWORTH.

The musical four hundred united with the social four hundred last night at Carnegie hall in paying tribute to a man who has stood for half a century as one of the most luminous figures in the world of music.



Leopold Auer

The man was Leopold Auer, greatest and most renowned of the living teachers of the violin, former court violinist at St. Petersburg,

the favorite of three czars and the associate of such renowned composers as Liszt, Brahms and Tchaikovsky—now, at 80 years, an exile from Russia, finding refuge in New York.

The occasion was an eightieth birthday celebration. Professor Auer, himself, appeared on the stage, which had been transformed into an evergreen glade, and once more revealed the magical beauty of his art. It was a long cry to those other days when he used to appear with Patti.

Six celebrated musicians also appeared. There were the two renowned pupils of Auer, Jascha Heifetz and Efrem Zimbalist, who, in addition to solo numbers, rendered the J. S. Bach D Minor concerto for two violins with much vividness, brilliancy and richness of color.

Sergei Rachmaninoff brought the fluent mellowness of his wonderful touch into play as the accompanist for Prof. Auer. Josef Hofmann offered a varied group at the piano, displaying his usual light and elastic technique. Then there were Ossip Gabrilowitsch and Alexander Siloti.

But among these stars it was Prof. Auer who dominated the audience. Massive, erect, elastic of step, a glint in his eye, despite his eighty years, he seemed to fondle his violin as if it were a favorite spoiled child, and as he made it leap into melodic and rhythmic life he seemed to be drawing it to speech with the careless familiarity of an old friend.

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