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MUSIC NOTES FOR ENGINEERS

By GEORGE S. BONN, '35

WHEN Little Jack "Here 'tis" Little wrote his "At the Baby Parade" he mixed up, whether he knew it or not, the melody of "If You Could Care for Me" with parts of Liszt's "Second Hungarian Rhapsody". "It Goes Like This" manages to get in some of this same "Rhapsody". "Good-night, Sweetheart", practically "Dream, Sweetheart", or vice-versa, is a descendant of Liszt's "Les Préludes", but since Franz Liszt died in 1886, he didn't know about it. This man, born in Hungary in 1811 was the greatest pianist the world has ever known. He wrote many of our best piano compositions, but, besides the rather foreboding "Les Préludes", he will be remembered for his nineteen Hungarian Rhapsodies, based on his native music which he loved. Of his shorter works, perhaps "Liebestraum" is the most familiar and best liked. His "Second Rhapsody" contains some of the most vivid music ever written; there are several distinct melodic patterns in it, all of them brilliant.

Sigmund Spaeth thinks that "The Big, Bad Wolf" can be traced back to the "Champagne Song" in Johann Strauss' "Fledermaus," as well as his "Perpetual Motion," with a little "Upidee" thrown in. As you know, there has been touring the country after a phenomenal run in New York, the musical play, "The Great Waltz," based on this same Johann Strauss' melodies. At the climax of the play, Johann directs the orchestra in the great waltz, "The Blue Danube," to the acclaim of the crowd and the plaudits of his father, Johann, 1st. Johann Strauss is known as the "Waltz King," and as such, in spite of the incomparable music of Wayne King, his popularity will never wane. "Artists' Life", "Tales from the Vienna Woods", "Wine, Women, and Song", "1001 Nights", and the overture to "Die Fledermaus" are all light and melodic in the so-called Viennese style. Johann was born in Vienna in 1825 and died there in 1899, after writing some 400 waltzes and other dance music.

Strauss From Munich

Another Strauss, Richard, born in Munich, and no relation to the Vienna Strausses, made a name for himself with his tone poems, "Till Eulenspiegel", "Don Juan", "Don Quixote", and "Ein Heldenleben", and with "Der Rosenkavalier", an opera with some very charming waltzes in it. The three trumpeters that preceded the Football Band on the field at the half, used the trumpet call from "Ein Heldenleben". "Till Eulenspiegel" is considered with the best of program music, telling very dramatically the life of this young man, who eventually was hanged, mostly for his crazy pranks.

Haydn, Father of the Symphony

In going through Austria-Hungary, it would be almost sacrilegious to skip over Haydn, the father of the symphony and chamber music, both, and one of the most prolific composers of consistently outstanding compositions. The Austrian Hymn (much later known as "Deutschland, Deutschland ueber Alles") is generally supposed to be written by him; at least a slow movement of variations of the Hymn appears in his "Kaiser Quartet". The "Gypsy Rondo" among his shorter works, the oratorio, "Creation", and the "Military", "Clock", "Farewell", and "Surprise" symphonies are some of his best known compositions. The "Surprise" gets its name from a crashing chord just after a simple melody, which, Haydn said, ought to wake up his listeners. In the last movement of the "Farewell" symphony the parts drop out one by one, the players originally blowing out their candles as they left. This was Haydn's way of telling the Prince Esterhazy, his patron, that the orchestra wanted a vacation! When Haydn died in Vienna in 1809 he left behind him 125 symphonies, fifty-one concertos, seventy-seven string-quartets, fourteen Masses, twenty-two arias, besides innumerable other works. Much of this is still heard.

"Blossom Time"

Franz Schubert, possibly one of the greatest of all these Viennese composers, is so well known for his many songs, his "Moment Musical", "Unfinished Symphony", "Marche Militaire", and other contributions that we will not emphasize him any more than to say, "Hear as much as you can of Schubert; you will never regret it; all of it will please you, I'm sure." (Only two of his ten symphonies are generally heard, so you won't have to worry about choices.) "Blossom Time" included many of his best known songs and melodies, and has lived 14 or 15 years because of them.

It was suggested that we include some "dirt", and do "Yes, We Have No Bananas" for you, but we believe that too many people already know the story of this mess, so we won't use it. However, here is one, a little more popular, perhaps, and we hope, a little less known:

"Say It Isn't So" of Irving Berlin starts off with a double background of "Dancing in the Dark" and "Just a Gigolo", then adds a little from "Rag-time Violin", going on through "Mighty Lak' a Rose" to "Un Peu d'Amour" with a bit of "April Showers", and a finish of "Can't We Be Friends?". There, or did everybody know that already?