

CONSERVATORIUM VIOLIN TEACHER

Mr. Arved Kurtz To Succeed Mr. Bornstein

The Council of the University of Adelaide has appointed Mr. Arved A. Kurtz as principal violin teacher in the Elder Conservatorium in succession to Mr. Peter Bornstein, who recently resigned to return to London. The director of the Conservatorium (Dr. Harold Davies) made the announcement yesterday.

Mr. Kurtz comes of a greatly gifted musical family, which includes among the distinguished conductor of Russian Ballet, and the Spivakovsky Trio in Melbourne, and Edmondo the violinello virtuoso now associated with the Spivakovsky Trio in Melbourne, a magnificent violinist, a student of such famous masters as A. C. R. O. S. a Thomson, Hubay, Willy Hess, and Lucien Capet. He is 35 years of age, at the zenith of his powers as a solo performer.

Mr. A. A. Kurtz

is widely experienced as a teacher, and well versed in the art of chamber music and orchestral work, having played for several years under the world's leading conductors—Toscanini, Furtwängler, Bruno Walter, Gustav Strauss, and many others. He speaks English, French, German and Russian fluently, and is an artist of outstanding personality.

Dr. Davies said yesterday that it was particularly fortunate that the University should have been able to immediately secure a teacher of such accomplishments, and doubtless many violinists would welcome the opportunity of continuing their studies under his direction. It was also good to know that the Conservatorium String Quartet, which had gained world-wide reputation throughout Australia, would possess a leader fully worthy of his predecessors—Mr. Harold Walden, Mr. Charles Schiller, and Mr. Peter Bornstein. With Mr. Harold Parsons's return from London at the end of April next, the quartet would resume its full activities.

Mr. Kurtz and his wife, who are at present in America, will probably reach Adelaide next February in time for the opening of the first term. It is expected that he will give an inaugural recital of the Elder Hall shortly after his arrival.

ERUPTION OF MUSICAL GENIUS

Three Child Prodigies TALENT "TRULY AMAZING"

In this article, specially written for "The Advertiser," Dr. E. Harold Davies, Elder Professor of Music at the University of Adelaide, discusses the recent "discovery" of three South Australian musical prodigies, whose ages range from 5 to 7½, and whose powers he describes as truly amazing.

By E. HAROLD DAVIES

From time to time during the period of our University Public Examinations, exceptional musical ability is discovered among the candidates who present themselves. In the past two or three years, particularly, there have been isolated cases of a talent verging upon genius. But during the September examinations of this year, at least three children have shown powers that are truly amazing. How can such an eruption be explained? It could almost seem as if some mysterious influence were at work in the hidden laboratories of Nature, engendering this special gift for music.

We know that, in the ordinary way, intensive training is necessary to develop the human ear in the perception of all those complex relationships of pitch and rhythm that go to the making of music. Then, in the matter of performance, many years of hard practice must also

use of Philip Harrgrave in 1929, who was then about a year older than Brenton is today. The parents of this small boy are both musical, and he is at present a kindergarten pupil of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, who appreciate the grave responsibility entrusted to them. They report that Brenton masters and memorises his pieces with equal ease, and that his purity of tone is remarkable, while any slight discord in the piano/forte accompaniment provokes his instant annoyance and correction.

Remarkable Seven-Year-Old

Then comes Allison Nelson, whom it she is 7½ years old, and fourteen months ago could not even read music, yet now she gains honors in grade IV, which is usually undertaken by children of nearly twice her age. I was astonished at this child's performance, and more still at her remarkable musical perception. She has absolute pitch, reads fluently at sight, besides possessing an unusual interpretative sense. Her late next month in memory of Sir Joseph Vercò. It has been composed from Sir Joseph's diary, written during dredging expeditions, and conducted nearly every year from 1895 until 1911. Twelve photographs taken by Sir Joseph on board the Federal trawler Endeavor will be reproduced in the book and Mr. Cotton has contributed 125 pen drawings of shells. It also contains a catalogue privately distributed by Sir Joseph, on South Australia, mollusca.

ALLISON NELSON

go to acquiring technique, depending, as it does, upon a perfect co-ordination of brain and muscles. And when it comes to the power to create music, the highest of all endowments, one thinks again of a mature experience of art as essential to its exercise. So it passes understanding that children of the tenderest age should thus infallibly display intuitive sense, an inalienable memory for musical sounds, abnormal technical facility, as well as the ability to think in musical terms, and express themselves quite naturally in this strange medium. For them it all seems so easy; while for most of us it is so hard. What subtle chemistry of mind and spirit lies behind such instant perception, such sure skill? Who shall read the riddle?

Vocalist At 13 Months; Pianist At 3 Years

A brief account of these three children should be of general interest. The first of them—Audrey White—is scarcely five. Though not a candidate, she was brought to me by her mother for advice and guidance; and never before have I seen such precocity. This little baby had to be lifted on to the music stool. A grand piano was quite strange to her; but that did not matter. There she sat for a minute in perfect silence, moving each hand up and down the keyboard, first to right and then to left, measuring her distances. Then followed a recital of seven varied pieces which I asked for in turn. The child does not know the name of a single note; she has had no teaching, but just plays easily and by ear the things that her mother, a former Miss Eastford teacher to other pupils. It is a faultless musical memory allied to natural powers. The touch sense which enables her to press down the keys that correspond with the sounds already in her mind; yet it

What will be the future of these strangely gifted little ones? It is difficult to answer such a question; as difficult as it is to predict what world conditions may be ten years hence, or soon nearly will be regarded in the changing times that are even now upon us. But it is clear that for the present they should be most carefully nurtured, to the one end of developing fully the wonderful latent power manifest. They must be given the best advantages obtainable both musical and educational.

Sensitive Plants Need Care

So much depends upon earliest influences, and such sensitive plants should not be subject to unskilled or inexperienced handling. It is so easy to blight the tender growth, to crush habits that can be eradicated only with difficulty in later years. It is almost easy to neglect the fastidiousness of musical perception in the pursuit of mere technical skill. More than this, they should be wisely sheltered during the formative years, not exposed to the underinspiring plaudits of the crowd, nor forced prematurely to display their gifts in public. A word once asked, "What becomes of all our senior wranglers?" It would be more pertinent to ask, "What becomes of

The following members of the council of the University of Adelaide retire through effluxion of time, and are eligible for reappointment at the senate meeting on November 28—Prof. R. W. Chapman and Sir Douglas Mawson, Sir Walter Young, and Messrs. A. M. Cudmore and G. B. Smith. The council has reappointed Prof. Harvey Johnson and Mr. R. N. Finlayson to the board of governors of the Public Library.

BOOK AS MEMORIAL TO SIR J. VERCO

Last Chapter Completed

The conchologist at the Museum (Mr. Cotton) today completed the last chapter of the book which is to be published for Sir Joseph Vercò. It has been composed from Sir Joseph's diary, written during dredging expeditions, and conducted nearly every year from 1895 until 1911. Twelve photographs taken by Sir Joseph on board the Federal trawler Endeavor will be reproduced in the book and Mr. Cotton has contributed 125 pen drawings of shells. It also contains a catalogue privately distributed by Sir Joseph, on South Australia, mollusca.

Sir Joseph conducted dredging from Beachport to Fremantle, and obtained some rare shells at 100 fathoms, 100 miles from Eucla.

FEWER SCHOLARS TO SIT FOR EXAMS

High School Fees Blamed

The number of candidates entered for this year's public examinations, to be conducted shortly, shows a substantial decrease compared with last year. About 75 fewer candidates will sit for the intermediate tests. The total last year was 7759. For the leaving examinations there will be about 1200 scholars, compared with 1388 last year. The biggest decline is in the number of leaving honors candidates there being 167 this year, compared with 268 last year.

The decreases have been attributed to the imposition of high school fees, and also to the immediate acceptance by scholars of advanced "training" in the post-matric "cramping" is occupying the attention of university students. Arts, science, and engineering and law examinations will commence on Thursday, and will last Monday.

Music Prize Divided

The council of the University has divided the prize which is awarded to the best candidate who passes as an excellent in the Intermediate examinations at the public examinations in music conducted last month by the Australian Music Examination Board, between Dorothea Mary Angus and Lloya Weston Vick.

The exhibitions, which are awarded to the best candidates in grade III and grade IV, standard, have been awarded to the candidate Mary Tribe and Gwendith Noble respectively.

BOOK IN MEMORY OF SIR JOSEPH VERCO

The last chapter of a book to be shortly published in memory of the late Sir Joseph Vercò was completed by the conchologist at the Museum (Mr. B. C. Cotton) yesterday. The book is composed from Sir Joseph Vercò's diary written during dredging expeditions, and conducted nearly every year from 1895 until 1911. Twelve photographs taken by Sir Joseph Vercò on board the Commonwealth Government trawler Endeavor will be reproduced for some time in dredging and testing the fishing grounds of the Great Australian Bight. Mr. Cotton has contributed 125 pen drawings of shells, and the book will also contain a catalogue privately distributed by Sir Joseph Vercò.



BRENTON LANGBEIN

the thousands of children who show special aptitude in all sorts of ways. The answer is that they are too often marred by faulty training, which blunts or even destroys the fine edge of their gifts, and fits in public. A word once asked, "What becomes of all our senior wranglers?" It would be more pertinent to ask, "What becomes of

Our systems of education are surely responsible for the dearth of musical God-given faculty, for it is inevitable that conventional courses should fail to meet the needs of exceptional cases. And such things do happen to Australian children, so musically endowed. Someone once described the great teacher as the "great releaser," and it is just this liberation from stultifying influences that will alone ensure the future greatness of these three.

At Six, Holds "Enormous Possibilities"

Then this is Brenton Langbein, of Gawler, now six years of age, who in May passed with credit in grade VI, violin, after three terms of study, and last month secured honors in grade V. Mr. William Silver's report speaks of a temperament and talent "far above average," and a future of "enormous possibilities," destined to him the pro-