

A NOTE FROM *Johnstone-Music*

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BRIEF NOTES on SEBASTIAN LEE

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Birth: 24th December 1805 - Hamburg, Germany

Death: 4th January 1887 (Hamburg ?)

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Sebastian Lee was a talented musician but one whose performing style was called 'classical' even by his contemporaries. He was a pupil of the Hamburg cellist Johann Prell (1773-1849), who in turn had studied with Romberg. In 1837-1843, Lee was soloist in the Grand Opera orchestra in Paris; he then taught there until 1868, before later returning to Hamburg.

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In both his playing and the violoncello Method that he edited in 1845, the interesting concept is that Lee combined features of the German and French trends. His Method was accepted as a manual at the Paris Conservatoire and was dedicated to Louis Pierre Norblin, a professor there. As it contains both praiseworthy pedagogic material and melodious music, it was republished in different countries, including Russia. In the Soviet Union, the Method was published in Andrey Borisjak's edition (1940).

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He is most notable for the composition of an anthology of 40 cello études faciles (40 Easy Etudes for Violoncello, Opus 70). He wrote a series of studies for cello, of which one in particular; Thema mit Variationen (theme with variations), has been called, 'a study with a memorable melody'.

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Lee's etudes and cello duets have continued to be used in teaching in more modern times. Luckily for cellists, much of his music is now available for FREE download from the IMSLP. See here:

https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Lee,_Sebastian

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Lee

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'documenting the cello' - www.johnstone-music.com

Please do see other original works for many different instruments and groupings, and also special transcriptions for cellists, and cellists with other instruments on the *Johnstone-Music* web page

Also both general musical and cello based articles, directories of famous historical cellists, and many other items of interest

DOWNLOADS - Many downloads on *Johnstone-Music* are now available, for those that are interested, at a *symbolic* payment, which is to help cover the costs of this web site. Some scores/parts are presented in musical edition programmes but generally they are found here in a most “clear” hand-written manuscript copy (the majority to almost a professional copyist standard) and transferred to a PDF file.

As far as *Johnstone-Music* is concerned you are welcome to publicly perform or record any work or piece found in the web; however you DO need to make mention of the name of the composer and the arranger on any printed information (hand programmes, disc covers etc.).

FREE PUBLICITY - If you care to inform us of any public performance (no matter how formal or informal the event is), recording or other uses of the original music or arrangements of David Johnstone or of other musical colleagues included in this web, we are happy to give your event free publicity on the *Johnstone-Music* web.

To take advantage of this, try to write to us three weeks or more in advance with any information. Last-minute entries are certainly better than not writing at all - however, understandably, once we have past the calendar month of the event it is not usually possible to add old items to the calendar. It is very interesting for the promoters of *Johnstone-Music* to have knowledge of your activity - and so in return for your information you will be entitled to a free gift of a work/s for every diary addition you tell us about. To find out more about this, please visit the “*Cello Club*” section in the web!