

A NOTE FROM *Johnstone-Music*

ABOUT THE MAIN ARTICLE STARTING

ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE:

We are pleased for you to have a copy of this article, which you may read, print or saved on your computer. These presentations can be downloaded directly.

You are free to make any number of additional photocopies, for Johnstone-Music seeks no direct financial gain whatsoever from these articles (and neither too the writers with their generous contributions); however, we ask that the name of Johnstone-Music be mentioned if any document is reproduced.

If you feel like sending any (hopefully favourable!) comment visit the 'Contact' section of the site and leave a message with the details - we will be delighted to hear from you!

**THE CONNECTION OF SUSAN METCALFE  
WITH PABLO CASALS and  
where Guilhermia Suggia was positioned within!**

..

..

Susan S. Metcalfe was born in 1878 in Florence, Italy. She was the daughter of Dr. Frank J. Metcalfe, a Manhattan, New York City physician, and her mother Helene, a prominent member of New Rochelle, New York society.

..

As a recitalist, Susan Metcalfe made her debut in New York in 1897 and gave a few, but very select recitals each year. In 1904 she met the cellist Pablo Casals, when she gave a recital with him (it is not generally known that Casals was a fine pianist too, and on this occasion was accompanying her at the piano!). They briefly developed a 'close' friendship, but this was sort of put aside when Casals entered an even closer relationship with Guilhermina Suggia in 1906. He had a summer job playing in a septet at a resort casino near Porto as far back as 1895, and she - Suggia - was brought to him for weekly lessons until his return to Spain at the end of the summer. In their relation, from roughly 1906 to 1913 Suggia lived in Paris with Pablo Casals. They lived out of wedlock, very surprising for the times, and she pursued her career with great determination - without formal agents she managed it mostly on her own, such as negotiating the fees, directing promotion and organising the concert schedule. A biographer of Suggia, Anita Mercier, even suggested that she may well have had an abortion in 1907. The relationship between Suggia and Casals was passionate, dynamic, and finally too volatile to hold together. Troubles in the relationship reached a tumultuous climax late in the summer of 1912; male visitors (especially handsome ones!) were warned not to pay much attention to Guilhermina on account of Casal's somewhat jealous streak. It so happened that the young Donald Tovey (promising composer, pianist, and wonderful author of musical articles) was staying with the pair near Barcelona for a few weeks. Nobody can know for sure what really happened, but somehow Tovey's presence provoked a devastating confrontation. Casals exploded in envious rage, seemingly caused by (surely falsely!?) believing that an amorous relation was developing between Tovey and Suggia. Legend says that Casals burst in on him pointing a pistol whilst Tovey was taking a bath, and that Tovey had to make an escape via the window (luckily on the ground floor) with only a sponge protecting his private parts!

..

Meanwhile, in 1908 Metcalfe was to embark on a European tour during which she sang for the British royal family. When the Casals' relationship with Suggia became strained, Metcalfe and Casals became very close anew. They had met again after Casals had given a concert in Berlin, and were soon married on 4th April, 1914, at New Rochelle. After this they moved together to Europe. During their artistic life together Casals and his wife often gave recitals together in which he accompanied her song sets at the piano and also performed cello sets in the same concert. For example, at their 'farewell' U.S. concert (their second recital of the season) in New York, April 1916, at the Aeolian Hall, 'Mme Casals' sang a group of songs by Caldera, Caccini, Gluck and Mozart, and later a set of five Scots and Irish songs arranged by Beethoven. In a 'Maennerchor Artist' Concert of January 1917 she sang a similar group in the first part, and songs by Schumann and Emanuel Moor in the second. They also gave concerts in America, Europe, England, Mexico and Cuba.

..

However, once again, being a romantic partner of Pau Casals proved to be very stormy. The marriage lasted until 1928, and I believe they were formally separated in 1929. However, they did not divorce until 1957, and this that Casals had another meaningful relationship long before he married Marta in the late 1950s. Mme. Metcalfe Casals decided to live in Paris. Her last known recital was at the École Normale de Musique there in 1951. Later she moved back to the U.S. to live with her sister, and died at New Rochelle, New York in 1959.

..



The images linked here are claimed to be used under fair use as:  
# the photos are only being used for informational purposes.

'documenting the cello' - [www.johnstone-music.com](http://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!