

Cellists' Corner

Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

prepared by David Johnstone from public information

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SMALL FEATURE on ** PAUL PRILL

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Years: 1860 – 1930

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Important Activity:

A - as a cellist:

Principal cello Berlin Symphony Kapelle. Orchestra of Italian Opera (Berlin). Principal cello Bilsse Orchestra, Berlin.

B - as a conductor:

Conductor Belle Alliance Theatre (Berlin). Deputy Conductor at Wallner Theatre (Berlin). Principal cello German Opera Orchestra at Rotterdam. Second Kapellmeister of the Rotterdam Opera.

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Born as the son of a conductor, Paul Prill gave concerts at the age of nine with his two brothers, Emil Prill (piano) and the violinist Karl Prill .

* he had various teachers, including Robert Hausmann.

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HOWEVER - despite a glittering cello career, he above all aspired to be a 'better' conductor !

From the beginning of September, 1882, until the end of April, 1885, he worked as solo cellist in the "Bilsse Orchestra." Such occupation did not suit him for a life-time activity; he aimed even higher, and desired to devote himself to conducting. So, after Bilsse had dissolved his orchestra, he found an engagement as Director at the Belle Alliance Theatre, in Berlin.

Occasionally also he performed the office of Conductor at the Wallner Theatre.

This work, however, did not have the hoped-for result, as there seemed no prospect of a path to a more remunerative sphere of conducting. Paul Prill then determined to accept the place of solo cellist at the German Opera at Rotterdam. With this the advantageous offer was made to him of performing at concerts in and around Rotterdam, yet he did not lose sight of his ambition in regard to a career as conductor. His wish was half-fulfilled, for during some time he was the second Kapellmeister of the Rotterdam Opera! Cellists are often GREATLY creative!!!

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