

SPECIAL FEATURE ON LOUIS HASSELSMANN'S

..

b. 15th July 1878 - Paris

d. 27th December 1957 - San Juan, Puerto Rico

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Louis Hasselmans was the son of harpist Alphonse Hasselmans. He studied the cello with Jules Desart at the Paris Conservatoire, obtaining a first prize in 1893.

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Between 1904 and 1909, he was a member of the Capet Quartet. Louis Hasselmans was the dedicatee of the Cello sonata No 1 by Gabriel Fauré. He also worked closely with Albert Lavignac, Benjamin Godard and Jules Massenet.

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However, his professional work took a change of direction mid-career; that of conducting! He made his debut as a conductor with the Orchestre Lamoureux. He later conducted the Opéra-Comique (between 1909-1911 and 1919-1922), the Montreal orchestra, the "Concerts Classiques de Marseille" (1911-1913) and the Civic Opera House of Chicago (1918-1919). Called by Castelbon de Beauxhostes, and under the advice of Camille Saint-Saëns, he conducted Parysatis and Héliogabale at the Théâtre des Arènes in Béziers in 1902 and 1910.

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After the first World War his conducting career achieved new heights. From 1921 to 1936 he conducted the Metropolitan Opera of New York. Then, from 1936 to 1948, he taught at the School of Music of the University of Louisiana. Louis Hasselmans married the American mezzo-soprano Minnie Egener (1881-1938).

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The photo attached is taken from the mid-1930s (I think!)..

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