

## SPECIAL FEATURE on OSCAR EILER

..

Birth: 8th September 1883 - Wisconsin, U.S.A.

Death: not known

Full Name: Oscar {John} Eiler

..

..

Oscar Eiler was born in Wisconsin, but studied cello in Germany with Carl Schroeder (1848-1935). Returning to Wisconsin, Oscar Eiler was in 1905 a music teacher in Appleton in central Wisconsin.

..

In 1910, Eiler played in the orchestra of Cleveland's Statler Hotel. Then for two seasons, 1912-1914, Oscar Eiler played in the cello section of the Philadelphia Orchestra under Leopold Stokowski. From 1917-1928, Oscar Eiler was active in the Philharmonic Quartet, a group which changed membership several times during its lifespan of 1886-1928, but which at the time of our featured artist was consisting of Sol Marcossion first violin, Charles Rychlik second violin, Johann Beck on viola, and Oscar Eiler on cello.

..

In the first season of the Cleveland Orchestra 1918-1919, Nikolai Sokoloff appointed Oscar Eiler as Principal cello of the Cleveland Orchestra. After serving in the first chair during this inaugural season of the Cleveland Orchestra, in June, 1919, Oscar Eiler moved to what we would today call the Associate Principal cello position. When Victor de Gomez was appointed Principal cello, Oscar Eiler continued in the Cleveland Orchestra for two more seasons, 1919-1921.

..

Information on later years is hard to come by. In the 1930s, Oscar Eiler was a theatre orchestra musician in Chicago. In those years Oscar Eiler was also active in the 'Russian Trio', whose members were Ninia Mesirov piano, Michel Wilkomlrsky violin and Oscar Eiler cello. Eiler also played in the Civic Opera Company of Chicago.

..

Oscar Eiler played cello in the Cincinnati Orchestra and the Nashville Symphony, but the years of his performances with these orchestra are not (as yet) documented. Returning to his native Wisconsin, Oscar Eiler also helped train the Oshkosh Youth Orchestra just before the Second World War (documented as 1939).

..

Little more from then is known, but I have uncovered this: Velma R. Smith (1910-2009) was the niece of Eiler's wife Bessie. Unfortunately Velma's mother Annette died when the baby was just three weeks old, and Oscar and Bessie raised her as their own child (Velma didn't even know this until she was 47 years old!). Velma was highly talented too: a composer, performer, author, handwriting expert, bell collector, tap dancer, Russian language expert, giving classes in music theory, organ and piano - finally just to mention she composed over 70 pieces for piano and organ!

..



The image linked here is claimed to be used under fair use as:  
# the photo is only being used for informational purposes.

..

..

‘documenting the cello’

# JOHNSTONE - MUSIC

*A space open for:*

- Concerts and performances
- Composition and special projects with the cello
- New frontiers / cross-over / fusion
- Composition of instrumental music for concerts and recitals
- Television music / cinema / theatre / documentaries

## *Downloading of Music Scores*

- Strings
- Wind and brass
- Piano
- Accordion
- Chamber groups / orchestra

## *Downloads of transcriptions:*

- Solo cello
- Cello and piano
- Cello and orchestra
- Cello ensembles  
(duos up to cello orchestras)

## *Written Articles*

- General Music
- Specialist themes on the cello

## *Directory - Library*

- Famous Historical Cellists

## *Audio - Video*

- Free downloads and links

## *Interactive*

- News and Diary
- Commentaries and Suggestions
- Useful and easy tools for musicians
- Games



[www.johnstone-music.com](http://www.johnstone-music.com)