



Leopold van der Pals (1884-1966)

Cello Sonata No. 1 in d Minor Op. 5a (1905/06)

World Premiere at Carnegie Hall, November 10, 2022

PROGRAM

'As composer discoveries go, Leopold van der Pals is a major find, and just think what an untapped goldmine lies in those 250 works never before recorded.'

Fanfare Magazine, July 2012, about: Leopold van der Pals, Works for Cello and Piano; Polyhymnia PF 11001

Leopold van der Pals: Sonata for Cello and Piano No. 1 in d Minor Op. 5a (1905/06)

World Premiere at

The Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, New York, on November 10, 2022

Reinhold Glière (1874-1956)

Feuille d'Album Op. 51 No. 1: *Con moto* (1910)

Alexander Glazunov (1865-1936)

Chant du Ménestrel Op. 71 (1901)

Leopold van der Pals (1884-1966)

Sonata for Cello and Piano, Op. 5a (1906)

World premiere

— INTERMISSION —

Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky (1840-93)

Pezzo capriccioso Op. 62 (1887)

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Sonata for Cello and Piano Op. 19 (1901)

Tobias van der Pals (Copenhagen), Cello
Pål Eide (Copenhagen), Piano



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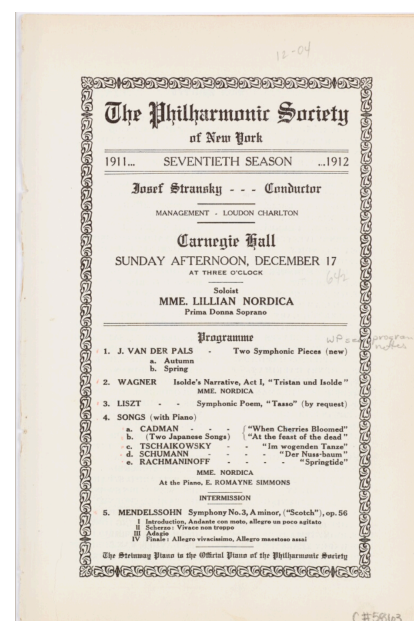
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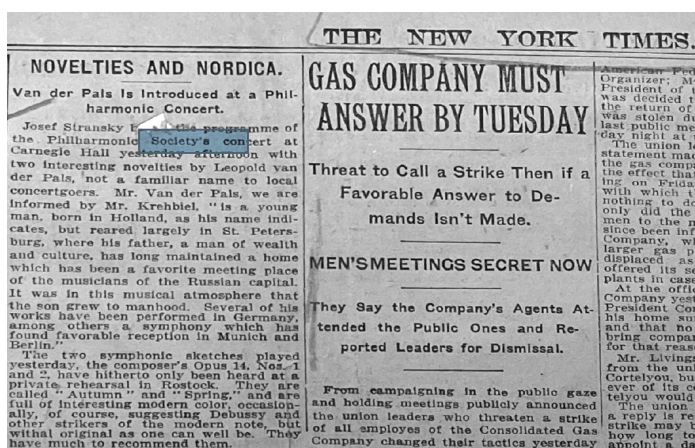
While being a student of the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen, Swedish cellist Tobias van der Pals once borrowed Riemann's music dictionary from the academy's library – and discovered that his ancestor, Leopold van der Pals (1884-1966), was a famous composer of his time. Further investigations led Mr van der Pals to an archive in Switzerland where he found the handwritten manuscripts of 252 compositions, most of them never published or performed in public, along with diaries describing his ancestor's career and the life of the musical centers of Europe in the first half of the 20th century.

Among those manuscripts were incomplete drafts of a large-scale cello sonata, written in 1905-1906. These were used by Mr van der Pals to reconstruct the original sonata which, however, was never performed in public. Hence, in November 2022 it will receive its world-premiere at Carnegie Hall, a venue that had played an important rôle in Leopold van der Pals' early years as a composer: On December 17, 1911, his two Symphonic Poems 'Autumn' and 'Spring' were first-performed here by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Josef Stránský, alongside with orchestral works by Wagner, Liszt, and Mendelssohn, as well as songs by, among others, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff.

Leopold van der Pals grew up in a home where, on several occasions, the Tchaikovsky brothers dropped by and played for the children. Other leading members of the Russian music elite came to visit, gave private concerts and made a deep impression on the young boy. Leopold van der Pals' first teacher was his grandfather, Danish composer Julius Johannsen, principal and professor of counterpoint at the St Petersburg Conservatoire. One of his students was the young Rimsky-Korsakov.



Programme of the first-performance of Leopold van der Pals' symphonic poems 'Autumn' and 'Spring' at Carnegie Hall on December 17, 1911



NYT review of 'Autumn' and 'Spring', published on December 18, 1911

Among other friends of the family were Alexander Glazunov who convinced Leopold's father that his son should pursue a career as a composer.

In 1907, Leopold van der Pals met Sergei Rachmaninoff at the "Concerts Historiques Russes" in Paris, a festival financed by his father and organized by the impresario Sergei Diagilev who later on was of vital importance for Igor Stravinsky's career as one of the most significant composers of the 20th century. Both Glazunov, Rimsky-Korsakov, and Alexander Siloti (who was among Leopold van der Pals' piano teachers)



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were attending the festival. After Leopold van der Pals had shown his recently composed cello sonata – his first piece he did not discard later on – to Rachmaninoff, the latter introduced him to Reinhold Glière who

accepted him as a student. It was Glière who encouraged Leopold van der Pals to compose his First Symphony which eventually was premiered in 1910 by the Berlin Philharmonic. During the following three decades, Leopold van der Pals' works were performed by major orchestras such as the Munich Philharmonic, Concertgebouw, Helsinki Philharmonic, St. Petersburg Philharmonic and Vienna Symphonic Orchestras.

Rachmaninoff's friendship and the influence of Tchaikovsky and Glazunov made important impacts on Leopold van der Pals' musical style and inspired him to embark on a life-long career as a composer.

All 252 works by Leopold van der Pals will be published by Edition Wilhelm Hansen, and most are planned for recording and release by CPO Records in the years to come.



First page of Leopold van der Pals' Cello Sonata Op. 5a

For further information on Leopold van der Pals' life and works:

<http://www.leopold.vanderpals.com>