

# Centenary of Mendelssohn

Born February 3, 1809



FELIX MENDELSSOHN

**T**HE YEAR 1909 marks the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Felix Mendelssohn, the famous German composer, conductor, pianist and organist. He was born February 3, 1809, at Hamburg, North Germany; died at Leipzig, Saxony, November 4, 1847.

He was son of a banker, grandson of a celebrated Jewish scholar and reformer. In mature life the father was influenced to renounce the Jewish faith and add Bartholomew to the family name to distinguish his branch from the orthodox members of the family. Father and mother, the latter also of the Jewish race, adopted the Christian religion, the children were baptized and brought up as Christians.

The life of the Mendelssohn family was very interesting and beautiful, the children unusually gifted, in the home an art atmosphere making for full development of the individual gifts. Felix received his first piano instruction from his mother, from his earliest days both parents were devoted to the fostering of his genius. The story of Mendelssohn's life is not the record of bitter poverty and Herculean efforts in overcoming obstacles; he stands out a genius accustomed all his days to wealth and refinement.

The Mendelssohn family moved to Berlin when Felix was scarcely three years old, and in this city his childhood and youth were passed. The parents were strict disciplinarians; the children kept hard at work at their music; rising at five in the morning to begin their tasks. During a visit to Paris Felix studied under Mme. Bigot; in Berlin was under the instruction of Carl Zelter and benefited for a season by work with Moscheles. At the age of nine he made his first public appearance, the youthful pianist winning favor. In his eleventh year Felix entered the Singakademie; the following year he began systematically to compose. To this period belong a trio for piano and strings, a sonata for piano and violin, a sonata for piano, pieces for the organ, songs, a comedy and a cantata.

It was the custom in the Mendelssohn family to hold musical performances at their home every other Sunday, a small orchestra assisting, and these musicals were of the greatest value to the young musician. He enjoyed the opportunity of having his works presented, and he always conducted.

For the Sunday musicals Felix constantly wrote new works; at the age of 17 produced the delightful "Midsummer Night's Dream Overture"—"conceived by a genius and executed by a master." His one opera was brought out publicly the year following the overture, and though given a favorable reception on its presentation at the Berlin opera house, the piece was shortly withdrawn. The year 1829 is marked by an important event, the performance under Mendelssohn's direction of Bach's "St. Matthew's Passion," which created a great sensation and led to the great Bach revival. Succeeding this event, an invitation to visit London was accepted. Mendelssohn made his first public appearance in England at a philharmonic concert, the concert opening with his C minor symphony, the author himself conducting the presentation of his work. The newcomer was most enthusiastically received, and it was from England Mendelssohn's fame as composer spread abroad.

In London he published the first

book of his "Songs Without Words." In that city to the end he had an enthusiastic army of admirers, loved and was beloved by the English public. In all he made ten visits to England. A short time before his death he journeyed to London to conduct a series of philharmonic concerts.

Of his work as conductor there stand forth most prominently his distinguished services while director of the Gewandhaus, Leipzig. In this city of Saxony he was very much at home, very happy, his work much appreciated—as it was not always in his home city of Berlin. In 1836 the University of Leipzig created him doctor of philosophy. From 1835 to 1841 he resided in Leipzig; the latter year yielded to the solicitations of the king of Prussia to return to Berlin. Official and court interference attended his efforts in Berlin, and he finally asked for liberty to withdraw, and found his way again to Leipzig. For a brief season he served as musical director at Dusseldorf conducted at the Lower Rhine festival; in England performances of his oratorio "Elijah" were given under his direction.

Mendelssohn's compositions from the first were marked by finish and neatness. He corrected and revised with utmost fastidiousness. Of the mass of work left behind by him only the briefest mention can be given. The "Midsummer Night's Dream," the overture work of his youth, stands as one of his best productions. His oratorios, "Elijah" and "St. Paul," are ranked as the most notable of his works. Other notable vocal works with orchestra are the symphony-cantata, "Lobgesang," the "Gutenberg Cantata," the ballade "Die Erst Walpurgisnacht," music to the choruses "Antigone," "Athalia" and "Aedipus in Colonus." He was author of much important church music in addition to that mentioned; his orchestral works include four symphonies and several concert overtures; the chamber music includes seven string quartets, a sonata for violin and piano, an octet for strings, and various other works. He wrote for the organ three preludes and fugues, six sonatas, preludes in C minor; the piano compositions are numerous and distinguished. Fluency, grace and elegance are considered the chief technical characteristics of his music.

Mendelssohn was deeply interested in the establishing of a school of music in Leipzig, and in 1843 saw this cherished wish fulfilled, this the date of the opening of the Leipzig conservatory. He labored unflinchingly for the success of the school, brought to it not only his prestige, but a practical business ability of much value.

Mendelssohn married at the age of 28, in his marriage good fortune still faithful, young Cecile Jeannerand of Frankfurt, as amiable and interesting as she was beautiful. His domestic life was idyllic, center of all Cecile, as is shown in the letters. Five children were born to the pair.

Overwork and sudden shocks are thought to have been the cause of his death. The unexpected loss of his father was a great blow; his mother's death occurred in the same way, suddenly; and last came word that his sister Fanny, close friend and confidante, had been stricken while conducting a rehearsal of her little choir. Felix never recovered from the shock of Fanny's death, a few months later death came to him. He was laid to rest in the Alte Drefaltigkeit's Kirchhof in Berlin, his resting place marked by a cross.

KATHERINE POPE.

# Dressy Styles



Serge Costume. A Smart Coat. Visiting Dress in Cloth and Velveteen.

**N**AVY BLUE serge is used for the costume shown here; the skirt has black fine braiding down each side, the front breadth finished with tassels; the jacket is braided in wave pattern all round edge and down center back. The revers, cuffs, and collar are faced with white cloth and are edged. Buttons of black braid fasten and trim the double-breasted front. White felt hat, trimmed with feathers and silk gimp to match dress. Materials required: Seven and one-half yards 48 inches wide, 4½ yards lining silk for jacket.

**S**mart Coat.—Dark green cloth makes a very smart coat when cut as this model; it fits the figure closely and is buttoned in a slanting direction from the bust to several inches below the waist; the three capes are edged with a narrow braiding design worked with silk braid; the large revers and cuffs are faced with silk, which is also braided. Velveteen hat, trimmed with roses. Materials required for the coat: Five yards 48 inches wide, ¾ yard silk.

**V**isiting Dress.—Mole-colored cloth is used for the tight-fitting bodice and skirt of this dress; the front breadth is of velveteen; the cloth edges laid over and machine-stitched down, buttons and cord loops being carried up each side. The front of the bodice is arranged to match the skirt, the cloth backs crossing over a velveteen center; the sleeves are entirely of velveteen. Muff composed of bands of sable divided by silk embroidery. Hat of stretched blue satin, trimmed with rose-colored chiffon and feathers. Materials required: Four yards velveteen, 4½ yards cloth; 2½ dozen buttons, 7 yards sateen.

## NEW BELTS MADE TO FIT.

Dress Accessory Which May Be Relied Upon to "Stay Put."

If the heavily-embroidered linen belts, or well-canvased cloth ones, persist in slipping up to disclose the waist and skirt attachments, there is a way out—and it's all in the shape. Was there ever a problem in the realm of fashion that could not be solved by some woman's genius? There are women who have just exactly the correct contour to be perfectly fitted about the waist line by a straight band of material, which "stays put," but is that a reason to suppose that every belt must needs be straight? It is quite enough of a tax on the general inability to accept the lace stock "made in one size only" for every neck (the saints be praised for collars in quarter sizes!), but, while the ready-to-wear beltings in embroidered galloons and the like are necessarily straight, all belts turned out by tailors and at home need not conform to a pattern fitting half the public.

A very simple solution is the belt looking like every other belt when round the waist, but cut two inches and a half wide in the center back and sloped gradually to a width of an inch and a quarter at each side of the front. The extra width in the back lies over the hooks on the skirt band, and the usual narrowness in the front slips more readily into most belt buckles.

## ADMIRER TURBAN.



A unique turban which on account of its coolness has not become popular with the masses. The top of gathered velvet is attached to a wing band. On the right side, near the back, is a large breast, the only needed decoration.

## A Sewing Help.

Anybody who has agonized at the sewing machine, while the silk, scornful of its spool, has wrapped itself around the spindle and snarled at the crucial moment, will be glad to know that there is a little invention now on the market to prevent the loosening silk from getting below the spool.

## IDEAS FOR VANITY CASES.

Are Now Made a Thing of Beauty as Well as Usefulness.

Fan vanity cases, 12 inches wide six and a half inches long, are composed of four folds of V-shaped stiff linen covered with figured silk or plain satin joined with inch-wide taffeta ribbon. The upper edges of the fan are filled with narrow valenciennes lace and several long loops of ribbon take the place of a handle. The inner side of one fold shows a limited manure outfit of steel and mother of pearl; a second fold is fitted with a powder puff bag, a third with an oval beveled-edge mirror framed in shirred satin, and a fourth with a toilet pin cushion. When closed the fan forms a triangle, with top corners joined by ribbon ties.

A second vanity case is of circular shape and three inches in diameter. It is composed of two cardboard discs covered with delicately tinted satin or flowered silk, and lined with matching ribbon. On the inner side of one disc is a silk-powder puff pocket having a shirred hem run through with elastic. On the opposite disc is set a beveled glass mirror framed in shirred silk.

## Children's New Frocks.

The high-waisted, one-piece frocks are here for children. They look quite quaint and charming in them. It is an especially pretty style for wear at their evening parties, made of messaline, soft cashmere, china silk or silk null.

The skirt has the same lines used on grown-ups. It runs to the bust, and is almost straight over the waist. It fastens down the back under a box plait, and the top part is made from good lace, fine embroidery and sometimes a little gold and silver thread.

Young girls wear this kind of a gown in rose pink, old blue, Nile green and faint lavender.

## The Beauty of Hair.

To have a pretty head of hair one must take care of it. No matter how tired you may be at night, be sure to get rid of all combs and artificial hair, shake the hair loose and brush and comb it thoroughly.

If your hair is falling out and you are using a hair tonic, after well brushing the hair apply it to the scalp. It is best to use a tonic at bedtime, for it gives the scalp plenty of time to absorb it.

## To Hold the Muff.

If you want to avoid losing your muff in the car or leaving it at some shop, as women are apt to do, have it attached to your wrist by a tiny gold or silver bracelet and chain, a novelty which is made expressly for this safe keeping of valuable fur accessories. A gold or silver slide adjusts the protector to the wrist, and the chains are long enough to allow of a comparatively free movement of the hand thus decorated.

# FORWARD TRADE MOVE

NEW NATIONAL COUNCIL OF COMMERCE TO PULS AMERICAN INTERESTS. By WALDON FAWCETT



THEODORE L. WEED

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF COMMERCE

Representatives of leading chambers of commerce, boards of trade and other influential commercial bodies recently gathered in the city of Washington and perfected the organization of a national, co-operative trade extension body that is bound to prove of the greatest potency in the promotion of American commercial interests at home and abroad. The delegates present at the inaugural meeting came from all parts of the country and there is no doubt but that the new organization is thoroughly representative of the business life of the nation in its broadest sense.

This new factor in American commercial and industrial progress is to be known as the National Council of Commerce. The first steps looking to the projection of this new force into the Yankee trade field at home and abroad were taken about a year ago when Secretary Straus of the federal department of commerce and labor—himself a business man as well as the official head of that branch of the national government having to do with commercial matters—called a preliminary conference of leading business men in the hope of paving the way for just such an association as has now been created. A temporary organization was effected at that time but it was only at the recent gathering at the national capital that the unique project assumed concrete shape and was put on a practical working basis.

The prime movers in this undertaking confidently predict that it will be the greatest trade organization in the world. The high character of the interests involved and the power of the affiliated organizations can not, perhaps, be better indicated than by presenting the list of members of the executive committee of the new body. This board of directors comprises B. A. Eckhart of the Chicago board of trade; Mallon E. Kilne, of the Trades League of Philadelphia; William McCarrall of the New York board of trade and transportation; George I. McCarthy of the American Meat Packers' association; H. E. Miles of the National Association of Manufacturers; H. Mosie of the Galveston chamber of commerce; Edward A. Flone of the Boston Merchants' association; George C. Perkins of the San Francisco chamber of commerce; L. A. Ransom of the Atlanta chamber of commerce; G. D. Rogers of the Minneapolis chamber of commerce; Gustav H. Schwab of the Merchants' association of New York; James E. Smith of the Business Men's League of St. Louis; D. A. Tompkins of the Southern Manufacturers' club, and Frank B. Wilborg of the Manufacturers' club of Cincinnati.

At the recent meeting which was attended by more than 50 delegates, by-laws were adopted and officers were elected for the ensuing year. Mr. Gustav H. Schwab, well known to business men throughout the country through his connection with the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, was chosen as chairman of the permanent organization. B. A. Eckhart of Chicago was elected vice-chairman; William R. Corwine, secretary, and Frank B. Wilborg of Cincinnati, treasurer. Meetings will be held annually and permanent headquarters will be maintained for the conduct of "missionary work" on behalf of the American trade interests which is one of the principal objects of the new organization. Although this is the first and only association of the kind yet projected on this side of the Atlantic, somewhat similar organizations have for years existed in countries which are the most formidable trade rivals of the United States—namely Germany, France, Great Britain, etc., and it was the object lesson afforded by these foreign bodies as promoters of commercial development that spurred the national government to foster the present organization here.

Secretary Straus who, with his right-hand man, Mr. Theodore L. Weed, and the assistant secretary of commerce and labor, Mr. William R. Wheeler of California, were instrumental in starting the ball rolling, will henceforth be connected with the organization only in an advisory capacity, they preferring to leave the active direction of affairs in the hands of the business men themselves. However, Secretary Straus hopes that one of the ultimate results of this new movement will be to bring about a closer relationship between the commercial interests of the country and the national government. In speaking of



SECY. STRAUS

the matter Secretary Straus said: "Unfortunately the national government has never up to this time been brought as closely in touch as is desirable with the tremendous power and influence and ability of American commercial life because the interests involved have not been brought together in the concrete form necessary to enlighten our government officials and secure their co-operation." In future he believes that, thanks to the new council of commerce, the federal government and the commercial interests of the country will be enabled to work hand in hand. All local or national organizations in any way interested will be invited to make common cause by joining the new council and the nucleus of membership already obtained indicates that there will be the fullest representation of the leading commercial, manufacturing, exporting and importing interests.

## CARRIED OFF BY LION.

Horrible Fate of Intrepid Hunter Who Fell Asleep.

Near Tsavo station, 133 miles from Mombasa, during the construction of the line, 29 Indian coolies were killed and eaten by lions, a writer on "Roosevelt's Hunting Grounds" in the National Magazine says. Naturally there was a panic; the men could not work, and three young men, Messrs. Hubner, Parent and Ryal, took a car down to the dangerous locality to slay the slayers of men. The car was left on the side track at the site of a former station long since discontinued, where a few days before a lion had actually sprung upon a man on an open railway truck as the train slowed down at the station platform and carried him, vainly shrieking for help, into the jungle.

The men knew they must keep watch against these man-eating beasts which had lost all fear of man and would exert their utmost subtlety and strength to feed their consuming desire for human flesh. It was arranged that a sentinel should be always on guard, and Ryal held the midnight watch, sitting, rifle in hand, where he could command the doors and windows. Parent made a sleeping place for himself on the floor, Hubner occupied an upper berth, and all three anticipated a successful hunt next morning.

About two o'clock, in the murky gloom of the tropical night, overcome by weariness and the enervating heat, Ryal dropped asleep. A pair of lambent eyes sought him out from the half-open door, a noiseless, powerful form crept by or over Parent as he lay asleep, and seizing him in his powerful jaws the man-eater of Tsavo sprung out through the glass and sash of the nearest window into the cover of the jungle, where Ryal's whitened bones were found later.

This tragedy caused the assembling of a great hunting party which swept the country about Tsavo, and among the lions killed was one great old lion which had imbedded in his scarred and lately-healed hide several fragments of window glass, which undoubtedly identified him as the slayer of poor Ryal.

## Pawnshop in Magistrate's Office.

A novelty in pawnshops is to be found in Ichang, China. The town contains a small pawnshop in the magistrate's office, run by the prisoners. The rate of interest is about one cent per 40 cents per month, except during the last three months of the year, when it is reduced to about one-half cent.

## Bibles Sent from London.

During the six months between last Easter and Michaelmas 1,436 cases packed with Scriptures, weighing altogether 154 tons, were sent out from the London headquarters of the Bible society for shipment abroad.