

MUSIC APPRECIATION SECTION

GREAT COMPOSERS OF MUSIC

SECOND SERIES

By BERT PAUL OSBON *

V. CESAR FRANCK



Cesar Franck

accustomed to sit for hours before his organ. As marvellous improvisations melted from his fingers, those with him saw him surrounded, as it were, with a musical halo.

But the organ-loft was not easily accessible. Franck was modest and retiring, concentrated upon art, not fame—a teaching saint. So this gentle soul, the greatest French genius of his century, known as the “little man who teaches music, whose trousers are too short,” was condemned to live laboriously in obscurity. But there was no resentment in his soul.

Cesar Franck was born in Liege, Belgium, in 1822, and received his musical education in the Liege and Paris conservatories of music. He then settled in Paris as a music teacher. He was also

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IN the organist and choirmaster in one of the dingy organ-lofts of one of the great churches of that city.

Years of hard work followed, for he taught music for ten hours a day, and also fulfilled his duties as an organist and choirmaster. But he always kept some time each day for writing music.

He had a long line of music pupils who became famous. For these he set an exalted ideal. He became the leader of new, modernistic ideas in French music composition, but his music was always classical in design and form.

Franck was a vital part of the musical life of his times, but some mystical quality in him and the very strength of his simple faith set him above many of his brother artists.

He possessed a nature of great sweetness and humility. He was highly spiritual and was marked by a lofty mysticism. Great delicacy, precision, and beauty are shown in his musical compositions, together with exquisite imagination.

He wrote numerous symphonic pieces, chamber music, choral works, and notable pieces for piano and organ. Franck quietly produced music which may be compared with the greatest.

His one symphony, the great *D minor Symphony*, has become very much liked, although his choral work, *The Beatitudes*, is generally considered his masterpiece. In this composition he took each of the *Beatitudes* as spoken in Christ's *Sermon on the Mount*, and gave it a musical

(Please turn to page 182.)

VERY LITTLE WOMAN

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we boasted before we had seen very much of the world.)

28. Read this story again. Then answer all of these questions.

29. Tell the story to your mother or your teacher.

30. Make a little play out of this story.

31. Make a list of the most important characters you would have in the play.

32. What other characters could you have? (An owl, a bee, a cricket, a bird.)

33. What valuable truth can be learned from this story?

34. What is meant by "reaching up to the sky"?

35. What is meant by "growing big"?

36. Think of your life during the last few years; then ask yourself: Am I growing? If you are, in what way?

37. Have you ever thought yourself bigger than you really are; that is, have you ever thought yourself more important than you really are?

38. What is the meaning of the word conceited? (Ask your mother, or teacher, or look in the dictionary.)

39. Read this story again, and think about it. Why did the Editor put it in THE YOUNG CITIZEN?

PLANT SURVIVORS

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obtained through the bookstores in Manila.

Since the Philippines are rich in interesting fern growth, the collecting of Philippine varieties would make an interesting hobby for any wide-awake Filipino boy or girl. THE YOUNG CITIZEN suggests this as a vacation occupation to the upper-grade boys and girls of our public schools.

QUESTIONS

1. What and when was the Coal Age? (See the encyclopedia.)

2. Tell about ferns of the Coal Age.

3. Tell about ferns of the present time.

4. How are ferns propagated?

5. Can you recognize any of the ferns of the Philippines?

6. What are the fronds of ferns?

7. What do fronds do? (See the illustration on page 170.)

8. Where are ferns found in the world?

9. Tell of the sizes of different ferns.

10. Have you ever seen a tree fern in the Mountain Province? If so, describe it.

CESAR FRANCK

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setting.

In 1890 Cesar Franck died in Paris from a neglected injury received when a bus struck him.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the dates of Cesar Franck's life?

2. In what country was he born?

3. Where did he receive his musical education?

4. What was his favorite instrument?

5. Where was he an organist and choirmaster?

6. Tell of his music pupils.

7. Tell of Franck's nature?

8. Is this shown in his music compositions?

9. What kinds of music did he write?

10. How many symphonies did he write? Name it.

11. What is a symphony? (See former issues of THE YOUNG CITIZEN and the encyclopedia.)

12. What is Franck's greatest choral work? Tell about it.

13. Have you ever heard any of Cesar Franck's compositions?

14. Can you tell more about him? (See the encyclopedia.)