THE STORY OF A MUSICAL LIFE: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649114160

The story of a musical life: an autobiography by Geo F. Root

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

GEO F. ROOT

THE STORY OF A MUSICAL LIFE: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Trieste





OF

A MUSICAL LIFE.

10 D

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY BY GEO. F. ROOT.

Y. 14. 5 12 1 10 100

CINCINNATI:

PUBLISHED BY THE JOHN CHURCH CO. 74 W. 4TH ST.

Chicago Root & Sons Music Co. 200 Wabash Ave. The John Church Co.

Copyright, 1891, by The John Church Co. <u>(1)</u>

(a)

PREFACE.

OCTOBER 1, 1888, was the fiftieth anniversary of my leaving home to commence my musical life. On that occasion we had a family gathering, at which were commenced the series of narrations which have grown into this book.

They were mostly written in 1889, and that will account for the mention of the names of some people who have died since that time.

Special prominence could have been given in this work to the orderly arrangement of such musical statistics and items of musical history as come within its scope, but such a plan would have interfered with my story, as such, so those matters have been allowed to come in as wanted, without reference to their chronological order.

I do not like the appearance of self-praise that I have to assume while recording in this book certain sayings and events which refer to myself and my career. I hope the reader will see that my story would not be complete without them, and on that ground excuse the apparent egotism. G. F. R.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

1820-1838-Birth-Leaving 1	Home	e-H	armo	my I	Iall-	Firs	t Pia	tio	
Lessons-Early Musical	Con	ditio	us-'	Two	Tune	s for	Pra	yer	
Meeting-The Odcon,	4	14		,			•	97-1013 19 1	3

CHAPTER II,

CHAPTER III.

CHAPTER IV.

1844-1847, New York—Abbott's School for Young Ladies—Rutgers Female Institute—Miss Haines' School—The Union Theological Seminary—The New York Institution for the Blind and the Mercer St. Presbyterian Church—My Marriage—My Quartet and Performance at the Philharmonic— Summer Convention Work with Messrs. Mason and Webb— Mr. Jacob Abbott's Advice about the Way to Keep a Diary, 37

CHAPTER V.

1818-1819, New York-Spingler Institute-Adding Difficulties to the Musical Work of my Classes-Reference to Dr. Mason's First "Singing School "-My First Efforts at Composition and Book-making-Different Musical Grades-Jenny Lind, 49

CHAPTER VI.

1850-1851, New York and Paris-Getting Ready for a Trip Abroad-The Voyage-Arrival in Paris-A Few Words on the Study of a Foreign Language-The Singing at the Madeleine-Lessons from Alary and Potharst--A Musical Compatriot-Gottschalk-Memorable Concerts, 58

CHAPTER VIL

1851, Paris and London-Fourth of July-The Conversational Mode of Learning French, and the Romance that Followed -Two Concerts at Exeter Hall, London - The Loyalty of the English to Old Favorites - The First World's Exposition-American Friends-The McCormick Reaper--The Sewing Machine-The Day & Newell Lock-The Yacht America-The Narrow Escape on the Home Voyage, 69

CHAPTER VIIL

1851-1853, New York ... "The Flower Queen" and the First "Rose "-" Wurzel" and "The Hazel Dell"-My Best Piano Pupil-The First Normal Musical Institute-"Daniel" and Early Books-The New House at Willow Farm, and the Singing in the Village Church-My First Musical Convention-The Value of a Specialty-The Old Violin-Early Orchestras, ् . 81

CHAPTER IX.

1853-1855, New York-A Frank Statement-Geniuses in Music-"The Shining Shore"-Early Books-The First Americanmade Doctor of Music-Early Conventions at Richmond, Va., and in the West-Preparing to Leave New York-How the "Normal" went to North Reading, 95