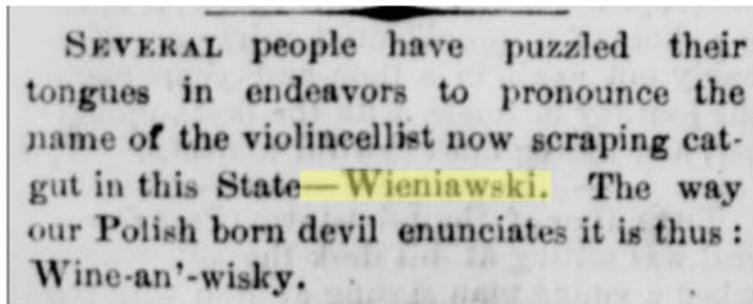


Henryk Wieniawski

10 Jul 1835 - 31 Mar 1880

"Musician. **Born in Lublin**, Poland, he was recognized as a violin prodigy and at age eight was sent to study at the Paris Conservatory. He published his first compositions when he was 12 and was touring extensively as a violinist at 13. From 1860 to 1872 he lived in St. Petersburg, Russia, where he combined recitals and teaching with a position as director of the Russian Music Society. **In 1872-1873 Wieniawski toured the United States** with pianist Anton Rubinstein, and in 1875 he replaced Henri Vieuxtemps as violin professor at the Brussels Conservatory. Wieniawski's later years were plagued by heart disease, aggravated by obesity and workaholic habits. His health grew so precarious that he often had to play recitals sitting in an armchair, but he refused to slow down. Urged by his physicians to retire from performing, he embarked on a "farewell" concert tour of Russia in April 1879. He was still at it 11 months later, when he **died of a heart attack at 44 in Moscow**. Most of Wieniawski's music was written for himself to play, and a lot of it has fallen by the historical wayside. But his two violin concertos, in F Sharp Minor (1853) and D Minor (1870) are repertory warhorses which would not be relinquished by virtuosos without a struggle. The International Henryk Wieniawski Violin Competition has been held in Poznan, Poland, every five years since 1952. He has been honored with postage stamps and in 1979 a 100 Zloty coin bearing his image was issued to mark the centenary of his death.



SEVERAL people have puzzled their tongues in endeavors to pronounce the name of the violincellist now scraping cat-gut in this State—Wieniawski. The way our Polish born devil enunciates it is thus : Wine-an'-wisky.

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The Wieniawski Concerts.

The concert given last evening by the Wieniawski Concert Troupe was largely attended, and no less enthusiasm was displayed than at the previous concerts given by the great violinist. An orchestra of thirty musicians, led by Mr. Charles Schultz, accompanied Herr Wieniawski. Madame Julie de Ryther sang prettily and with sympathy, as she always does. In the song "Farewell," there was exquisite tenderness, every word appearing to tell the sorrow of the heart.

The troupe leave this morning for San Jose, where a concert will be given to-night. To-morrow and Wednesday evenings they perform in Sacramento, and on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings in Virginia City. It is the request of a large number of influential citizens of this city, that Herr Wieniawski return to this city ere his final departure for the East, to give one or two farewell concerts at popular prices, and no doubt he will accede to their wishes.

For T. B. Luman's Farewell Sermon

A Fashionable Audience to Hear the Great Violinist—Enthusiastic Appreciation of the Musical Treat.

The first grand concert of Henri Wieniawski and troupe, was given last evening, at Pacific Hall. By eight o'clock all the seats had been taken and standing room nearly at a premium. The concert opened with a piano solo (Septuor finale—from Meyerbeer's opera "L'Africain"—arranged by Kaff), by Mr. Carl Wolfsohn. Although evidently nervous at appearing before a strange audience, he stamped himself at once as a great performer, his "touch" being very fine and the runs and passages given with great accuracy and fine hearing.

The next piece on the programme introduced us to Mme. Jule De Ryther, a brunette of commanding height and exquisite figure. The lady was dressed with great simplicity and with faultless taste. She has a rich, deep mezzo soprano voice, her upper register being of great clearness. The well-known caratina, by Millard, "Waiting," was rendered in a manner to win a very vehement and hearty encore when she gave the old Irish ballad "Kathleen Mavourneen," bringing back memories of Jenny Lind. Mme. De Ryther richly deserves the high praise given her by the Eastern press.

The great star of the evening, Henri Wieniawski, next appeared. His style is a blending of the classic and romantic school. No tricks or devices—such as are sometimes used by violinists—are necessary for Herr Wieniawski; unlike many artists he does not follow his old school learning, but gives an original and feeling manner to his playing which charms and entrances his audience. His first piece, a fantasia on "Faust," an arrangement by himself was superbly given, especially the part from the third act (The "Jewel Song.") It was played on the "melodic string," sounding like the beautiful flageolet. At the conclusion of the piece the house fairly shook with applause. In response to a prolonged encore the great maestro played the little air, with variations, "Willie, we have Missed You," with exquisite tenderness and feeling.

The second part opened with a piano solo (a nocturne, b capriccio, a la Redowa), performed by the composer, Mr. Carl Wolfsohn. Both were well played, giving the audience a better chance of judging of Mr. Wolfsohn's playing than in the first piece. For an encore he gave Schubert's "Slumber Song."

Herr Wieniawski next gave an "Aria" by Bach, and "Reverie" by Vieuxtemps, and in response to the demand for an encore, which would not be denied, he gave a very pretty Spanish dance.

Mme. de Ryther sang "Once Again," by Sullivan, and in compliance with a call to sing "once more," she gave the ballad by Clantel, "I Can't Sing the Old Songs."

The last number on the programme was Paganini's celebrated and popular "Carnival de Venice." Recollections of Ole Bull, of Jullien, of Joachim vanished as Wieniawski drew the exquisite notes from his violin, and all previous performances seemed as nothing compared with this. At its conclusion, loud cries of "bravo" and the waving of handkerchiefs by the ladies testified the satisfaction of the audience.

A few words of the violin used by Herr Wieniawski may not be out of place. It is one of the celebrated Stradivarius Cremona make, of the year 1719, and was presented to Herr Wieniawski by the citizens of St. Petersburg, Russia, on the 31st of March, 1864, as a token of esteem and regard.

Mons. Louis Rembielinski accompanied the different performers on the piano, with good taste and in excellent style.

The second concert will be given this evening, and on Saturday afternoon a grand matinee concert will be given. On next Monday evening, the 23d inst., the troupe will perform in Oakland. Already a large number of seats have been engaged.

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The Farewell Concert of Henri Wieniawski.

The last of the series of concerts by Henri Wieniawski was given last night, with full orchestra, in the California Theatre, to an enthusiastic audience. The programme was admirably chosen to show the skill of the great violinist in different styles of playing — a treat which would have insured the attendance of a multitude of people in any of the large centres of population — a treat which will certainly never be offered again to an audience in this city, as Herr Wieniawski will take his departure to-day, and continue eastward; to take his place in such a programme there is no artist living. Though the earlier concerts were in the nature of an ovation, it seems that the people scarcely appreciated that there was really a rare opportunity afforded them of hearing a maestro whose fame will equal that of the greatest — that they did not fully realize that "an angel was entertained unawares," for he is above the earth and supernatural in his command of the instrument to utter sweet sounds. To other communities we commend the Wieniawski Concert Troupe as worthy of every attention, encouragement and patronage, and as conferring a favor by visiting them, for California is indebted to a lucky accident in having an artist so eminent pay us a visit, and to his extraordinary good nature in organizing a troupe so satisfactory in every way. Herr Wieniawski visits Oakland to-night, and other places on the road returning East.

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There was an artist here Wieniawski,²⁶ a violinist, I was very happy with both his talent and his technique, he didn't make a lot of money because he managed things badly, but justice here has given him better now than it has to the pianist Wołowski²⁷ but he only gives lessons. The artists who come here ought to inquire beforehand into the customs and habits in California.

Source:

<http://cosmopolitanreview.com/the-korwin-letters/>



Cemetery: Powązki Cemetery

Burial or Cremation Place: Warsaw, Mazowieckie, Poland