

Western Fair
SEPTEMBER
6 to 13
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FAIR WEEK

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TREASURE OF ART AT THE FAIR

Mason & Risch Company To Show Life-Size Portrait of Liszt.

Art lovers are looking forward with great interest to seeing the famous Liszt portrait to be publicly exhibited by its owners, Mason & Risch Piano Company, in their booth at the Western Fair. Many famous personages have expressed the greatest admiration for this wonderful painting, and the story of how it came to be in London lends to it even greater interest.

Prof. Charles G. D. Roberts, the eminent Canadian poet and author, who was among the first to see it in Canada, gave his impression of the painting in this brief but powerful description: "Art lovers can ill afford to omit a visit to the Mason & Risch Piano Company, where the portrait of Dr. Franz Liszt, by Baron Joukowsky, is on exhibition."

Shows Marvelous Skill.

"It is doubtful if such another art treasure as this painting is to be found in the Dominion of Canada. The artist has combined marvelous technical skill and realistic accuracy in rendering of skin texture and tone, with fine idealism in the portraiture. The face of the master musician gleams from the canvas with startling vivid force, so infused is it through every feature, but, above all, through the piercing eyes, with the keen fire of the spirit within. Criticism becomes eulogy when it is set the task of dealing with a masterpiece such as this. The artist, in rendering with minute fidelity the outward form of his subject, has subtly captured and shown to us at the same time the genius."

The portrait came into being on the occasion of the great music master's critical and exhaustive tests of a Mason & Risch upright piano at his residence in Weimar, Germany, in the summer of 1881. Liszt became so impressed with the rich, sonorous and prolonged singing qualities of the Mason & Risch piano that he voluntarily honored the company with the following letter, expressive of his highest appreciation: "Very Honored Gentlemen: The Mason & Risch piano forwarded to me is excellent, magnificent, unequalled. Artists, judges and the public will certainly be of the same opinion."

"With my sincerest respects I desire to send you my portrait. It has been painted for you by Baron Joukowsky, son of the renowned Russian author, and personal friend and instructor of the Emperor Alexander II. But now this Liszt portrait has turned out to be so remarkably successful that people here wished to have a second similar one from Jou-

kowsky for the museum. The painter kindly complied with the request, by which a delay of two or three months is necessitated in my forwarding the first portrait to Canada.

"Baron Joukowsky made the original sketches for the Parsifal scenes at Bayreuth, which were so successfully carried out."

"Excuse, very honored gentlemen, the delay and accept the assurance of my highest regard. F. Liszt, Weimar, November 10, 1882."

The portrait is life-size, being six feet high by four feet six inches wide. The face seems to loom up from the canvas as from the obscurity of an immeasurable past, typifying, as it were, in some measure, the illuminating effect the master had on the musical thought of his time. An air of calm but masterful repose drapes the figure as with a garment. Everything is subordinated to a sense of calm dignity, benignant, yet powerful. It is a masterpiece in the truest sense.

In the Mason & Risch upright piano Liszt had discovered a new

he honored the company with perhaps the highest compliment ever conferred upon a pianoforte manufacturer. He not only sent them an exceedingly appreciative letter, but also sent to Venice and requested his and Wagner's great friend, Baron Joukowsky, one of the world's greatest painters, to come to Weimar and paint his portrait.

Baron Joukowsky, who had long been seeking the opportunity at once to close his studio in Venice and hasten to Weimar. The result was that another masterpiece came from his brush and this exceptionally fine work of art the master sent the Mason & Risch Company to further emphasize his opinion of the piano which had been sent him. It is undoubtedly the most characteristic faithful and striking portrait of the great man, and as a work of art it becomes more prized in art circles each succeeding year.

Was Shown Abroad.

It may be mentioned that before the portrait was forwarded to Canada it was exhibited in Weimar, Venice



tone color with enriched diapason singing qualities differing from all other instruments previously met by him, and he requested Mason & Risch to send him one of their new Baby Grand models.

Accordingly, one of the new Grands was forwarded to him, and after testing it, as he alone could test it,

and Wiesbaden. In each city it elicited unstinted praise from all who had the opportunity and privilege of seeing it. Strong efforts were made by influential friends to induce Liszt to revoke his decision and retain the painting in Europe. Among those, it has since been learned, were the late Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar, the Grand Duchess and the Court, but the master would not deviate from his decision. It had been painted, he declared, specially to honor the Mason & Risch Company for the very fine instruments they had sent him, and to them only it could go.

Finding he could not be prevailed upon, the late Herr Krupp, the world-renowned iron and steel magnate of Essen, Germany, an intimate friend of the master, sent a photographer to copy it. One of these copies, with added appreciative remarks by the master regarding the Grand Piano, was tendered the company, and this, with autograph attached, is also in their possession. In the great Colonial and India Exhibition at South Kensington, London, England, in 1886, Mason & Risch pianos played an important part.

Royalty Admired Picture.

His royal highness paid several visits to the Canadian court during the progress of the exhibition. At a private view on Saturday, May 1, preceding the great state opening, the prince freely expressed to Mr. T. G. Mason the pleasure the Mason & Risch exhibit afforded him. He also noticed and admired Baron Joukowsky's fine life-size portrait of Dr. Franz Liszt. On being informed, in answer to his inquiry, the name of the artist, he replied: "Joukowsky. Indeed! You have certainly been doubly honored—honored by the master and honored by Joukowsky. Joukowsky is a great artist—a personal friend of mine. You are certainly to be congratulated."

This famous portrait of Liszt will be on display during the entire week of Western Fair in the Mason & Risch booth, together with the complete line of Mason & Risch Upright and Grand models and the renowned Welte-Mignon Reproducing Piano.



"Very Honored Gentlemen:—"

(Translation)
The Mason & Risch Grand Piano you forwarded me is excellent, magnificent, unequalled (1st. vortrefflich, praehtig, mis-terhalt). Artists, Judges, and the public will certainly be of the same opinion.

With my sincerest respects I desire to send you my portrait. It has been painted for you by Baron Joukowsky, son of the renowned Russian author, and personal friend and instructor of the Emperor Alexander II.

But now this Liszt portrait has turned out to be so remarkably successful, that people here wished to have a second similar one from Joukowsky for the Museum. The painter kindly complied with the request, by which a delay of two or three months is necessitated in my forwarding the first portrait to Toronto.

Excuse, very honored gentlemen, the delay, and accept the assurance of my highest regard.

F. LISZT."

Weimar, Nov. 10th, 1882.

The most Interesting Painting at London Exhibition.

HAVE you ever seen a massive life-size portrait so clearly drawn, so realistically painted that the subject seemed to be a living person in your presence?

Such is this original portrait of Franz Liszt --- considered by many the world's greatest musical genius of all time.

Liszt posed for this magnificent painting in 1883, at a time when the world marveled at his amazing technique and superb tone coloring, when his demands of a piano were most critical and exacting.

It was then that Liszt paid tribute to the Mason & Risch Piano in most glowing terms. The appreciation of a master of music for a musical masterpiece.

We invite you to see the wonderful painting of this renowned musician at the London exhibition, and to see the Mason & Risch Pianos made with the same expert knowledge and craftsmanship which won his unstinted praise.

The complete line of upright and grand Mason & Risch Pianos—as well as the famous Welte-Mignon reproducing piano—will be on display at the Mason & Risch Booth, Manufacturers' Building, South Side.

MASON & RISCH

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