



Violoncello Society, Inc. Newsletter

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Rudolf Matz: Cellist, Teacher, Composer

Margery Enix

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Dominus Music Publishing, LTD.

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For most of my cellistic life the name Rudolf Matz was to me just that, a name. I had picked up a number of volumes of his "The First Years of Violoncello" at a used music store, but had never closely examined them. Later, as editor of the *Newsletter*, I learned more when I had occasion to read the several articles by and about Matz that we had printed over the years. Now, with Margery Enix's absorbing, informative, and highly readable book, Rudolf Matz begins to attain his rightful stature in all three areas indicated in her title.

For cellists and cello teachers her brief but thorough discussion of the history of theoretical cello methods leading to modern playing--and Matz's place in that history--is invaluable. Her presentation of Matz's basic principles of cello playing is perhaps even more valuable and useful. Can there be a better statement of ideal cello playing than this:

"When playing the cello, everything that happens must be aesthetically pleasing to the eye, musically harmonious to the ear, and in compliance with sound physiological principles."

For non-cellists who like biographies and history, this book should also prove worth reading. I found the historical background of Croatia and the portrait of the Matz's life under German occupation and then under Communism, fascinating. And with this part of the world figuring so importantly in the news during the last several years, the book is coincidentally timely.

My appetite is whetted for more. I look forward to the publication of Matz's Method Volumes by Dominus Music. I am now also curious to explore his concert music.

by Jeffrey Solow

The NEWSLETTER of the Violoncello Society is published three times a year, so that members may participate in the exchange of new ideas, and keep in touch with recent trends and personalities related to the Violoncello. Short, pertinent articles are welcome. Address editorial correspondence and all other communication to Esther Prince, 340 West 55th Street/5D, New York, N.Y. 10019.