

# Carnegie Hall Concerts

## *-by the numbers-*



### **CLASS OF THE 1860S**

All four pianists were born during the 1860s, making them representatives of the post-Liszt wave of virtuosos.

### **BEETHOVEN AND CHOPIN REIGN SUPREME**

Every pianist included a piano sonata by Beethoven and a significant amount of recital time was dedicated to Chopin. Paderewski, aus der Ohe, and Rosenthal all programmed Beethoven Op. 57. Chopin's smaller works were given equal weight to his longer virtuosic pieces and were not always identified by specific opus in the programs.

### **TRANSCRIPTIONS**

Transcriptions were not always accredited in recital programs so it may be assumed that liberties were taken with the score as part of performance practice. At the same time, transcriptions were noted in Paderewski, aus der Ohe, and Rosenthal's programs. Aus der Ohe and Paderewski both programmed Carl Tausig's arrangement of a Bach Toccata and Fugue in D minor.

### **PADEREWSKI'S POWER**

Between 1891-1896, Rosenthal and aus der Ohe were booked for one set of two recitals, which was common for the time. Sieveking played one recital. Paderewski is recorded to have played 20 solo recitals in the same time. As a result, his repertoire makes up the bulk of the piano music performed between 1891-1896. He played at least 7 separate Beethoven sonatas during that time. He played Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody, R. 106 eight different times.

### **TICKET PRICES**

For Adele aus der Ohe's April 1895 recitals, tickets were advertised for \$1 dollar for general admission and \$1.50 for reserved seats. By today's rates, that would make a night out to see a piano recital would cost around \$35 or \$50 dollars, respectively.

### **SIEVEKING THE MULTI-HYPHENATE**

Martinus Sieveking has the most understated program of the four pianists. However, he is the only one to have also invested time as a body builder, in addition to his successful performing career.

Note: All information about repertoire and recitals taken from programs found in Carnegie Hall's Rose Digital Archives.

Carnegie Hall, "Solo Piano Recitals May 1891-1896," Rose Digital Archives, accessed September 2022.

Morgan Friedman, "Inflation Calculator," Morgan Friedman Inflation Calculator, accessed 2022 <https://westegg.com/inflation/>.

Eugen Sandow, "Sandow on Physical Training", J. Selwin Tait & Sons, New York, 1894, pg. 242.

# Aus der Ohe



Adele aus der Ohe presents an interesting aspect to this research. On paper, she is the first recorded female pianist to play a solo recital at Carnegie Hall. She existed as a high-profile virtuosic artist at a time when women were not encouraged to take up careers, appear on stage, or manage their own finances. In the United States, where aus der Ohe spent most of her performing career, women were yet not allowed to vote. Therefore, Adele aus der Ohe's contribution to the history of piano performance and the history of female performers is vast. Her lengthy performing career, where she appeared as soloist from coast to coast and abroad, is representative of a noteworthy artist. In addition to her ability to play, her ability and keen interest in composing music also makes her important to the history of composition.

At the same time, related to the history of piano recitals in Carnegie Hall between 1891-1896, there is a wrinkle to her role. While she was booked to appear in April 1895, the recitals were cancelled due to illness and there is no indication that the recitals ever took place.

Aus der Ohe's contribution to the repertoire from 1891-1896 stands, as she was booked to play and the cancellation occurred so close to the performance that programs were printed. Her planned repertoire was varied, including more contemporary music than Moriz Rosenthal or Martinus Sieveking. She also planned to perform a work she had composed, which is the first example of a programmed piano piece by a female composer in Carnegie Hall's records.

## WHO WAS FIRST?

With the information about Adele aus der Ohe's cancellation in mind, the question should then turn to who actually was the first female pianist to play a solo recital at Carnegie Hall. The answer is Teresa Carreno, who played a recital in 1897. A notable pianist in her own right, it is important to give her achievement its rightful due. Carreno would also go on to perform at Carnegie Hall many more times into the 20th century.



TERESA CARRENO, 1916

Carnegie Hall, "Solo Piano Recitals May 1891-1896," Rose Digital Archives, accessed September 2022.

Leno, LaWayne. The Untold Story of Adele Aus Der Ohe: From a Liszt Student to a Virtuoso. Beaver's Pond Press, Saint Paul MN, 2012.