

Chapter 1 : An American Virtuoso on the World Stage: Olga Samaroff Stokowski

*An American Virtuoso on the World Stage: Olga Samaroff Stokowski (Lectures; 29) [Donna Staley Kline] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Through astonishing force of will and exertion of talent, a young Lucy Hickenlooper of South Texas.*

Reddit Flipboard The following script is from "The Virtuoso" which aired on March 30, , and was rebroadcast on June 22, Wynton Marsalis is the correspondent. David Browning and Paige Kendig, producers. Marcus went blind when he was five years old. And soon began trying to make sense of life in the darkness. He was unusually curious, and even tore his toys apart just to find out how they worked. Marcus Roberts developed a powerful, analytical intelligence, capable of producing music that will move your mind as well as your body. As we first reported earlier this year, the story of his genius begins with a precious gift from his parents: I remember coming home from school one day. I walked in the house, I had no idea they had the piano. And I actually ran into it. I said, "What is this? Please help me welcome to the stage, Marcus Roberts! Marcus Roberts lost his sight, but gained a rare insight into the soul of American music. Not just a thrilling performer, but a composer, too, of innovative modern music who remembers, as a kid, picking out songs he heard on the radio. Marcus Roberts Marcus Roberts: Well, lemme hear the right hand with the left hand. So did you ever feel some type of kinship or relationship to Stevie because he also was blind? In childhood, he taught himself the basics, playing with four fingers on each hand because no one told him you could use the thumb. Some dedicated music teachers straightened him out along the way. We gave him a musical test: First, as it might have been played by Erroll Garner, a legend from half a century ago. What about James P. In the early twentieth century, Johnson took ragtime and made it swing. What about Thelonious Monk? Monk was the modernist, the Picasso of the piano. Duke would be kind of-- He heard Duke Ellington - one of the pillars of American music - on the radio in And it changed his life. They were playing - [plays A Train main theme] Marcus Roberts: Catch the A Train. Catch the A Train? Take the A Train. There was a quality to it that made me feel good. Like, figuring it out, something about that made me feel better about myself. Improvising here on the music of jazz legend Chick Corea. The way Marcus gets around the keyboard even amazes other pianists, including Corea himself. Marcus embodies a perfect kind of art in my mind. Marcus absorbed a lot of the history of music. But then comes with a rendition that is completely Marcus Roberts. Spur of the moment. Gershwin - not a bad pianist himself - would have been knocked out. Marcus grew up in Jacksonville, Fla. So his mother and his father - a longshoreman down on the Jacksonville docks - scrimped and saved for that piano Marcus could call his own. He went right to it. It was just like I had lost a loved one or something. And by the time he was five, severe cataracts blinded Marcus as well. How did your parents explain your blindness to you? They just taught you how to do stuff for yourself. Marcus told me that you were never about self-pity or feeling bad about yourself. She showed you by example. Like she can iron clothes. She knows how to like, run a household. He taught himself enough to get his first gig at the Silas Missionary Baptist Church, on this very piano. Sister Murray used to lift Marcus up on the piano bench. He could really play and he could sing. Oh, he could sing at the same time? And then where you hold chords out is real important in gospel music. Music for praise, for consolation, for teasing a few more coins into the collection plate. When you really wanted the church to get more intensity, give me an example of something you would do to have some intensity to it. Maybe something like that. When Marcus was 10, his parents sent him to the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, down the road in Saint Augustine, where a music teacher - also blind - changed his life. Hubert Foster introduced Marcus to Bach and Beethoven. Foster taught him more about jazz, and how to read musical scores in braille. He was an amazing man. So you embraced education? We took Marcus back to the school. For a homecoming with some of the people who knew him as a kid, like Vicky Palmer. He was just a good, genuine young man. And every time I hear his name, I say "Oh, that was one of my students. Marcus remembers being inspired here by a visiting musician long ago. We figured we might just do the same. One young man wanted some pointers. And played us a tune he liked. He soon found himself in a duet with the master. You gotta go out with confidence, but you want as much information as you can get your hands on. He

travels with various devices that let him email, surf the web, even write music in braille. And he has a devoted band of young musicians who record and perform with him. Ricardo Pascal decided to give up computer science and study instead with Marcus. Back in Jacksonville, we celebrated his 50th birthday, making him an official elder statesman of jazz. The mother who told him to find success in adversity was there. And so was the spirit of the father who did without so Marcus could have that piano. And for the man who can play just about anything, we had one more challenge. One final test for you. Art Tatum was probably the greatest jazz piano virtuoso ever. Can anyone top Tatum? But you know what? The search for that higher level of virtuosity, that higher level of intimacy with music. If you are one of the lucky ones to be able to do what you want to do, then you are blessed.

Chapter 2 : Liberace - Wikipedia

Through astonishing force of will and exertion of talent, a young Lucy Hickenlooper of South Texas, reinvented herself as Olga Samaroff, international virtuoso concert pianist and one of the most influential musicians during the first half of the twentieth century, when music was still dominated by men and Old World prejudices.

He had three surviving siblings: While Sam encouraged music in his family, his wife, Frances, believed music lessons and a record player to be unaffordable luxuries. This caused family disputes. While Sam took his children to concerts to further expose them to music, he was also a taskmaster demanding high standards from the children in both practice and performance. By age seven, he was capable of memorizing difficult pieces. He studied the technique of the Polish pianist Ignacy Paderewski. At age eight, he met Paderewski backstage after a concert at the Pabst Theater in Milwaukee. My dreams were filled with fantasies of following his footstepsâ€”Inspired and fired with ambition, I began to practice with a fervor that made my previous interest in the piano look like neglect". Paderewski later became a family friend. In childhood, Liberace suffered from a speech impediment, and as a teen, from the taunts of neighborhood children, who mocked him for his effeminate personality and his avoidance of sports, and his fondness for cooking, and the piano. He gained experience playing popular music in theaters, on local radio, for dancing classes, for clubs, and for weddings. In , he played jazz piano with a school group called "The Mixers" and later with other groups. Liberace also performed in cabarets and strip clubs. Though Sam and Frances did not approve, their son was earning a tidy living during hard times. For a while, Liberace adopted the stage name "Walter Busterkeys". By this time, he was already displaying a penchant for turning eccentricities into attention-getting practices, and earned popularity at school, despite some making him an object of ridicule. A participant in a formal classical music competition in , Liberace was praised for his "flair and showmanship". He later stated that he played the popular tune in the styles of several different classical composers. He also toured in the Midwest. Between and , Liberace moved away from straight classical performance and reinvented his act to one featuring " pop with a bit of classics" or as he also called it " classical music with the boring parts left out". In the early s, he struggled in New York City, but by the mid- and lates, he was performing in night clubs in major cities around the United States, largely abandoning the classical music altogether. He changed from a classical pianist to an entertainer and showman, unpredictably and whimsically mixing the serious with light fare, e. The gimmick helped gain him attention. He also added interaction with the audienceâ€”taking requests, talking with the patrons, making jokes, giving lessons to chosen audience members. He also began to pay greater attention to such details as staging, lighting, and presentation. In , he began to appear in Soundies the s precursor to music videos. He recreated two flashy numbers from his nightclub act, the standards " Tiger Rag " and " Twelfth Street Rag ". In these films, he was billed as Walter Liberace. Both "Soundies" were later released to the home-movie market by Castle Films. In , he made his first appearances in Las Vegas, which later became his principal venue. He was playing at the best clubs, finally appearing at the Persian Room in , with Variety proclaiming, "Liberace looks like a cross between Cary Grant and Robert Alda. He has an effective manner, attractive hands which he spotlights properly, and withal, rings the bell in the dramatically lighted, well-presented, showmanly routine. He should snowball into box office". The Chicago Times was similarly impressed: He "made like Chopin one minute and then turns on a Chico Marx bit the next". He added the candelabrum as his trademark, inspired by a similar prop in the Chopin biopic A Song to Remember Besides clubs and occasional work as an accompanist and rehearsal pianist, Liberace played for private parties, including those at the Park Avenue home of millionaire oilman J. By , he was billing himself as "Liberaceâ€”the most amazing piano virtuoso of the present day". He did not always play to packed rooms, and he learned to perform with extra energy to thinner crowds, to maintain his own enthusiasm. Despite his success in the supper-club circuit, where he was often an intermission act, his ambition was to reach larger audiences as a headliner and a television, movie, and recording star. Liberace began to expand his act and made it more extravagant, with more costumes and a larger supporting cast. His large-scale Las Vegas act became his hallmark, expanding his fan base, and making him wealthy. When it is too difficult, he simplifies

it. When it is too simple, he complicates it". His sloppy technique included "slackness of rhythms, wrong tempos, distorted phrasing , an excess of prettification and sentimentality, a failure to stick to what the composer has written". Kisses, handshakes, hugs, and caresses usually followed. Showmanship has another more potent, drawing power to his show: Surprisingly enough, behind all the glitz glitter, the corny false modesty, and the shy smile, Liberace exudes a love that is returned to him a thousand-fold. He believed fervently in capitalism and was also fascinated with royalty, ceremony, and luxury. He loved to hobnob with the rich and famous, acting as starstruck with presidents and kings as his fans behaved with him. Yet to his fans, he was still one of them, a Midwesterner who had earned his success through hard work, and who invited them to enjoy it with him. He designed and built his first celebrity house in , with a piano theme appearing throughout, including a piano-shaped swimming pool. His dream home, with its lavish furnishings, elaborate bath, and antiques throughout, added to his appeal. He leveraged his fame through hundreds of promotional tie-ins with banks, insurance companies, automobile companies, food companies, and even morticians. Liberace was considered a perfect pitchman, given his folksy connection with his vast audience of housewives. Sponsors sent him complimentary products, including his white Cadillac limousine, and he reciprocated enthusiastically: After reading it, in fact, my brother George and I laughed all the way to the bank. Liberace was particularly displeased with the frenetic camera work and his short appearance time. He soon wanted his own show where he could control his presentation as he did with his club shows. The minute network television program, *The Liberace Show*, began on July 1, , but did not lead to a regular network series. The widespread exposure of the syndicated series made the pianist more popular and prosperous than ever. He also used dramatic lighting, split images, costume changes, and exaggerated hand movements to create visual interest. His television performances featured enthusiasm and humor. His musical selections were broad, including classics, show tunes , film melodies, Latin rhythms, ethnic songs, and boogie-woogie. This exposure gave Liberace a dedicated following in the United Kingdom. Homosexual men also found him appealing. According to author Darden Asbury Pyron, "Liberace was the first gay person Elton John had ever seen on television; he became his hero. He followed up with a European tour later that year. She was beaten and kicked, but her heavy corset may have protected her from being badly injured. Liberace was not informed about the assault until he finished his midnight show at the Moulin Rouge nightclub. Despite successful European tours, his career had in fact been slumping since , but Liberace built it back up by appealing directly to his fan base. Through live appearances in small-town supper clubs , and with television and promotional appearances, he began to regain popularity. On November 22, , he suffered renal failure , reportedly from accidentally inhaling excessive amounts of dry cleaning fumes from his newly cleaned costumes in a Pittsburgh dressing room, and nearly died. He later said that what saved him from further injury was being woken up by his entourage to the news that John F. Kennedy had been assassinated. Told by doctors that his condition was fatal, he began to spend his entire fortune by buying extravagant gifts of furs, jewels, and even a house for friends, but then recovered after a month. He owned an antiques store in Beverly Hills, California , and a restaurant in Las Vegas for many years. He even published cookbooks, the most famous of these being *Liberace Cooks*, co-authored by cookbook guru Carol Truax , which included "Liberace Lasagna" and "Liberace Sticky Buns. Harris eventually bought the house after discovering that Liberace had agreed to buy it, but had not yet put down a deposit. In a cameo on *The Monkees* , he appeared at an avant garde art gallery as himself, gleefully smashing a grand piano with a sledgehammer as Mike Nesmith looked on and cringed in mock agony. His performances in the last of these included a "Concerto for the Birds", "Misty", "Five Foot Two", and a rendition of " Chopsticks ". In the s, he guest-starred on television shows such as *Saturday Night Live* on a 10th season episode hosted by Hulk Hogan and Mr. T , and the film *Special People*. In , he appeared at the first *WrestleMania* as the guest timekeeper for the main event. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. April Learn how and when to remove this template message Liberace in Even before his arrival in Hollywood in , Liberace wanted to add acting to his list of accomplishments. *Footlight Varieties* is an imitation-vaudeville hour and a little-known sequel, *Merry Mirthquakes* , featured Liberace as master of ceremonies. In , Liberace was at the height of his career when tapped by Warner Bros. The other players and staff were smallish at the bottom. The film was a

critical and commercial failure since Liberace proved unable to translate his eccentric on-stage persona to that of a movie leading man. Warner quickly issued a pressbook ad supplement with new "Starring" billing below the title, in equal plain letters: When *Sincerely Yours* played first run at the Orpheum in Seattle, the billing was altered even more: Joanne Dru, Dorothy Malone, and Alex Nicol above the title with big head shots of all three and below the title in much smaller letters: Originally, *Sincerely Yours* was meant to be the first of a two-picture movie contract, but it proved a massive box-office flop. The studio then bought back the contract, effectively paying Liberace not to make a second movie. The experience left Liberace so shaken that he largely abandoned his movie aspirations. He made two more big-screen appearances, but only in cameo roles. From , he recorded 10 discs.

Chapter 3 : Where Are The World's Top Destinations for Luxury Travelers?

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Her background is in the travel industry as a sales representative for Qantas Airways she is half Australian! Few authors could address the concept of the impact of music on life – especially the rise and fall of a virtuoso. But that is exactly what Virginia accomplishes in this fascinating novel that blends passion for music, the tragedy that impacts the life of a woman committed to being a violin virtuoso, and the discovery of love – an elevated state that has its pitfalls, too. From page one throughout this book the quality of writing is masterful. Virginia opens not with a Prelude or Overture or Prologue, but instead with a direct confrontation with her main character. She stood, straightened her back and turned to see shiny, eager eyes trained on her. She did, however, think of herself as very fortunate to have made a stellar career out of doing something she loved; playing the violin. Now it was time to give something back. His lopsided smile and intense stare hinted at how awestruck he was by the presence of the violin virtuoso, Isabelle Bryant. She had reluctantly agreed to run her first Violin Masterclass; having once been a former student at the Royal Academy of Music herself. She was in her element performing in front of an audience, and even coaching the students, but transformed into a bundle of nerves and quirky gestures when she was alone talking to groups of people. In fact, Isabelle loathed public speaking of any kind. Heart racing, she took a deep breath and delved into the recesses of her memory. It was an intoxicating visit. Then, aged 32, at the height of her career, the unthinkable happens. What do you do when everything depends on the dexterity of your fingers, only to lose them in a horrifying instant? Devastated and vulnerable in the aftermath of her accident, Isabelle struggles to find new meaning in her life. Her perilous path of self-discovery leads her to Vienna, the historic city home of her music hero, Beethoven; and into the arms of the man who will become her lover. As her personal journey progresses, she takes on new opportunities and has to face disturbing revelations, all of which have the power to make her or break her – all over again. Eventually his emotions exploded and Isabelle fell victim to his rage in ways that took my breath away and made me gasp out loud. Her sister, Lily, with damaging secrets yet to be told. This book screams so po The author is brilliant as she surrounds the main character with all of these relationships to set the stage of the complicated life of a master violinist and the dramas and challenges all around her, Howard, her jealous husband an insecure narcissist was making life impossible for Isabel. And so the author takes her readers on a journey of rediscovery, a journey to self with a classical music elegance in the most beautiful of historical settings in Vienna and of course, a new love. I could feel and see myself in Vienna as if I were on the journey with Isabelle. And just when you think Isabel is well on her way and there will be no more tragedies or obstacles for her to face the author surprises you with another tragedy each as devastating as the one before and yet Isabelle climbs up and over and still moves forward with her life. If classical music, travel, starting over, forgiveness, determination and the power of love inspire you than this book is for you,.

Chapter 4 : The Virtuoso: Marcus Roberts - CBS News

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