

Pick Kubelik as Director of Symphony

(Picture on back page)

Rafael Kubelik, 35 year old Czech conductor, will become musical director of the Chicago Symphony orchestra next fall, it was announced yesterday by Edward L. Ryerson, president of the Orchestral association. Ryerson also announced the resignation of Tauno Hannikainen as assistant conductor.

Both steps had been persistently rumored in the last three weeks. The choice of a new, permanent conductor, it was reported, had been narrowed to Kubelik and George Szell, conductor of the Cleveland Symphony orchestra. It was understood that the new conductor would be permitted to name his own assistant.

Engaged for Two Years

Ryerson said Kubelik had been engaged for a two year term under a "mutually satisfactory memorandum of understanding." He said the association had an option permitting it to extend the agreement for a third year.

Kubelik will become the fifth principal conductor of the orchestra, which is now in its 59th season. His predecessors were Theodore Thomas, Frederick Stock, Desire Defauw, and Artur Rodzinski. The orchestra has been without a permanent conductor since the spring of 1948 when Rodzinski's dismissal precipitated a controversy in the musical world. In the meantime it has been led by Hannikainen and by visiting conductors.

Son of Noted Violinist

Kubelik, who is 6 feet 4 inches tall, pronounces his name Koo-beh-leek, accenting the first syllable. He was born June 29, 1914, in Bychory, Czechoslovakia, the son of the late noted violinist, Jan Kubelik. At the age of 20 he made a tour as piano accompanist for his father, playing in Chicago in January, 1935. Later that year he became conductor of the Prague Symphony orchestra.

He refused to cooperate with the Nazis during their wartime occupation, and quitted Czechoslovakia two years ago when the Communists took control. Since then he has conducted several leading British orchestras and has led concerts in France and Italy.

Kubelik was mentioned as a possible successor to Sir Adrian Boult as permanent conductor of the British Broadcasting corporation's symphony orchestra.

He made his American debut in Chicago last month and has been conducting in Pittsburgh. His wife, the former Ludmila Bertlova, a violinist whom he met in 1936 when she was soloist with the Czech symphony and married in 1942, was injured on Dec. 6 in Pittsburgh. She slipped while bathing their son, Martin, 3, and suffered

[Continued in Women's Section]



[TRIBUNE Photo]

Rafael Kubelik, newly engaged conductor of Chicago Symphony orchestra, at news conference yesterday.

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