

There has never been a moment when I have consciously put my own interests or ambitions above the welfare of the orchestra to whose service I have given twenty-three years of my life and now, after careful self-searching, I have come to the painful conclusion that the best interests of that orchestra and of your Association demand that I withdraw from my position as conductor until the day comes, for which I earnestly hope, when papers of full citizenship can be issued to me and make me before the law, as I am in spirit, an American citizen.

I firmly believe that my withdrawal will afford a solution of the problems now confronting you, and will tend to relieve a delicate and vexing situation. I have, therefore, respectfully to request that you will relieve me of the duties of conductor until that happier day shall dawn.

Let me say in conclusion that it is impossible for me to express adequately my gratitude for the support and encouragement given me through all these years by the Trustees and Members of our Association and the music-loving public in general, and to express the hope that the same consideration will be bestowed upon my successor.

Respectfully,
Frederick A. Stock.

Mr. Hamill offered the following reply from the Trustees:

Chicago, October 1, 1918.

My Dear Mr. Stock:

Your letter of August 17, 1918, long under consideration, was acted upon by the trustees of the Orchestral Association today, and I was directed to say to you that in complying with your suggestion and relieving you from the duties of conductor until your legal status as an American citizen can be established, the trustees appropriate the noble motives which have prompted you to this course, and yield to your suggestion, not because they have now, or ever have had, any doubt of your loyalty to the country of our birth and your adoption and of the equal affections of us all, but only because, as you so generously point out, a portion of the public who cannot know you as intimately as we have been privileged to know you, may be misled as to your sentiments by an appellation which, intended only for the enemies of our country, can nevertheless technically be affixed to you.

To those who do not know you, the expressions of your letter and other declarations by you since the outbreak of war might not be convincing, but the faith of us who do know you, though it requires no support beyond our knowledge of you, is nevertheless confirmed by many facts, among which may be noted:

Within four days of your arrival in this country, twenty-three years ago, you declared your intention of becoming a citizen, not, as has been intimated, to qualify you for admission to a musicians' union, for there was then no such requirement, but because, as we have reason to know, that declaration comported with your convictions and desires.

In 1914, notwithstanding the tradition of twenty years and the fact that the directions on nearly all musical scores are in German, you, on your own initiative, changed the language of rehearsals from German to English, and since then have given all spoken directions in English.

You, first among the conductors of leading orchestras, gave all-American programs, and on one of them included your own admirable composition, "Festival March," concluding with a beautiful orchestration of our national anthem, thus publishing to all the world that you regarded yourself as an American composer.

Your several addresses on the subject of the war to the men of the orchestra, as reported to us, have all manifested a fine sense of the obligations owed to this country by residents of foreign birth, and have left on the minds of your hearers no doubt as to your feelings.

In permitting you to part for a time from us we wish to assure you of our regard for you as a man, our confidence in you as an American and our admiration and respect for you as a musical artist.

In the quarter of a century of your association with our orchestra, as player and conductor, you have shown yourself always to be actuated by the highest musical ideals and have brought to the performance of your duties the finest artistic skill and musical learning.

No one who has followed your development as a conductor or has known the artistic life of the body of musicians under your direction can, if he be at all sensible of the relation between integrity of character and nobility of musical expression, question your sincerity.

We who have witnessed your untiring devotion to the cause of good music and the welfare of our orchestra gratefully acknowledge that your present offer is but another evidence of that devotion and of the fine unselfishness which has governed you in all your relations to our Association.

It is with the greatest reluctance and only because we desire to relieve you from embarrassment which might result to you from the fact that the passions of our people are rightly inflamed against the Government, from allegiance to which you have never been fully and technically released, that we accede to your proposal.

Permit us to assure you that our grief in this separation finds its greatest comfort in the belief that it is but temporary, and that the omission of the past may be soon repaired. Then it will be our joy to welcome to our conductor's stand Citizen Stock.

Sincerely yours,
Clyde M. Carr, President.

The Trustees of The Orchestral Association:

Joseph Adams	Chauncey Keep
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Mr. Hamill moved, Mr. Morris seconded, that Mr. Stock's proposition be accepted, and that both his letter and the reply by the Trustees be furnished the Chicago daily papers.

On motion of Mr. Hamill, seconded by Mr. Morris, the resignation of Mr. Steindell as principal 'cellist of the Orchestra was accepted.

Meeting adjourned.


Secretary.