

# THE ZITHER

John C. Scherer, Editor

423 South Fifth St., Minneapolis, Minn.

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NO. 1

## OBJECT OF THIS LEAFLET

This paper is issued by the Twin City Zither Club. Its purpose briefly stated is in the interest of the zither. The next convention of the United Zither Players' Association of America is to be held in Minneapolis in October of this year.

It is not too early to arouse zitherplayers the country over to renewed activity preparatory to this congress. We want every player in the U. S. A. to know that we are going to hold a real convention next fall and this leaflet is sent out to urge you to take up your instrument now. Get your fingers in trim so that you can play along with the largest zither chorus ever assembled in America. Mr. Albert K. Fahrner of Davenport, Ia., who hardly needs an introduction to American zitherplayers, is a thorough musician and an artist not only on the zither but also on the cello. He is the musical director of the United Zither Players Association of America, and as everyone knows who has ever played under the direction of his baton, is the most capable man that could be found to lead us. The artistic side of our concerts given in connection with our conventions is always assured under his able direction. In this connection it may be stated that music is sent to everyone who is able to play it several months before the convention meets. The first and part of the second day of our congress is given over to rehearsal and the concert is held on the evening of the second day. The third day is generally taken up with business in the morning, sight-seeing in the afternoon, winding up with an impromptu entertainment and banquet in the evening. Our present plans are for a four day convention this year, with one concert planned for Minneapolis and another in St. Paul, which is only ten miles distant. An extra day would give more time for the social side, which in the past has seemed altogether too short.

We want at least several hundred players to be in attendance this year to play with us in this grand chorus and those who cannot play well enough we are doubly anxious to have with us because these concerts and associations with other players are a most wonderful inspiration to all players and particularly to the beginners. These yearly gatherings encourage one to greater efforts.

In order to make this paper more interesting we want news from every part of the country that may interest zitherplayers in other parts of the country. We should have a complete up-to-date list of every player in the U. S. We now

have about 1,300 on our list. There may be some good players in your own neighborhood whom you would like to know and who would want to know about you. Send us the names of players together with their addresses whom you know of and we will be only too glad to give you what information we have. Many an instrument lies dormant because of the lack of activity in your locality. The Twin City Zither Club had a small beginning but at the present time has nearly 25 members. Some of our members had not touched their instruments for years but it is surprising how many good players we have that we did not know about. What a fine thing it would be when players who take up residence in another city, if they would know just where to go to find a gathering of players.

Most players know where to buy a zither but how many know where to find good music for solos, duets, trios or clubs or what zither school to take up to make the best progress? Many players cease to advance just at the moment when renewed and continued effort would make high class players of them. Sometimes a player has no access to the proper kind of music and possibly gets an idea that he is as good as they make them and as a result his interest lags and eventually he drops practice on his instrument altogether. There seems to be a woeful lack of good teachers in this country and yet there may be a lot of good ones whom we haven't heard about. From the foregoing it is easy to see that a great deal can be done to make more and better zitherplayers and therefore wish to point out the need of these yearly gatherings or conventions, and also the necessity for a paper in the interest of advancement on the zither. The T. C. Z. C. has undertaken to issue this paper for the next year and it will be issued quarterly such as it is. This is only a small beginning but we hope you will encourage it to grow. The money to pay for the expense of this paper will come out of the funds raised by our club to entertain the next convention; also from the proceeds of the concerts held in connection therewith. No expense will be made which cannot be met. We intend to have a real Congress, and we are going to raise enough money to pay every expense of the 1922 convention and turn in a neat profit to the national treasury on the basis agreed upon. At the present time we have subscriptions for over \$300.00. However, we want more members to boost this sort of thing and therefore we are going to make a determined effort to make a lot of new members during the next year and

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also to enroll everyone formerly a member of the old Verband. Every zitherplayer in the U. S. should be a member of the United Zither Players Association of America. To become a member fill out the enclosed application blank and send a check or money order for \$10.00. This will give you one share of stock which is non-assessable. The dues at the present time are \$3.00 per year. A movement is on foot to reduce the annual dues beginning next year. If you are a real enthusiast on the zither you will make this small sacrifice to help popularize our instrument in America. It can be done and that is what the United Zither Players Association of America is here to do.

### WILL YOU DO YOUR SHARE?

#### To the Zither Players of America:

Our 1921 Convention, which should have taken place in New York City in the latter part of October, had to be called off.

success, besides Minneapolis and St. Paul are ideal cities for such an affair, are conveniently located and can be easily reached by all our western friends as well.

Now then, as we have such splendid prospects ahead of us, let everybody start early to make preparations for the affair, so that when the time arrives, everything is ready and all that is left to do, take his best friend—the zither—along and go to Minneapolis. The newly appointed Executive Committee consisting of Messrs. John C. Scherer, chairman, Emil Geist and Carl A. Duevel, have started the work already and will do everything in their power to make the coming convention one grand affair.

But to achieve a full success we need every zitherplayer as a member, and those that have not enrolled so far, should do so at once and send their application to our secretary, Carl A. Duevel, 911 Plymouth Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.

HENRY WORMSBACHER,  
President, U. Z. P. of A.

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We are trying to do some constructive work. Will you help us by sending the information requested below?

1. Send us news from your city or town as to your zither activities.
2. Send us a list of players in your locality, with names and addresses, because we want to reach every player in this country.
3. Send us the name of your club or group of players, even if it is only a trio, with the name of your leader—how many members you have—when and where you meet. Other players in your locality may be anxious to join you who do not know that such meetings are being held. No doubt we can give you names and addresses of players living in your own locality of whom you do not know about. We may be of assistance to you in forming a zither club.
4. Are you planning to attend the Convention in October? Write us for any information or assistance which we can give you. We will be glad to do what we can.

Address Twin City Zither Club, 423 South Fifth St., Minneapolis, Minn.

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Disagreement between the New York members of the Executive Committee made arrangements for this event impossible, and as, under such circumstances, the affair surely would have proven a failure, the best thing to do was to call it off.

Since then, The Twin City Zither Club, a large western organization of zitherplayers, with Emil Geist of St. Paul as president, and John C. Scherer of Minneapolis as director, has come to the front and invited the United Zither Players of America to stage the next Convention in the Twin Cities.

The trustees of our organization were all highly in favor of this idea, and thanking the Twin City Zither Club for their kind invitation, they accepted the offer and told the members to go ahead with the good work.

There can't be the least doubt, that with so strong an organization, and such powerful officers, as the Twin City Zither Club can boast of that the next Convention will be a tremendous

#### To the Members of the U. Z. P. of A.:

With great pleasure I am looking forward to our next meeting of the United Zither Players of America, at the newly selected place, the beautiful city of Minneapolis, Minn. I think that the board of officers has a right to congratulate themselves in landing the convention in this splendid location. We all know of our poor financial result at our last congress in Buffalo, N. Y., and also are aware of all the trouble we had trying to meet in the great city of New York this year. It was surely very unpleasant for some of us active, true old members of our beloved Verband to receive such unexpected, undeserved treatment for our good intentions. And still we have now great reason to be pleased as we all have learned a very good lesson. Yes, believe me, dear members, it shall be to us all a great benefit in many ways for the future of our organization. Minneapolis and St. Paul, the well known Twin Cities, have now a very progressive Zither Club, and prominent members. Our dear friend, Mr. Emil Geist, is president, Mr. Chas.

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# United Zither Players Ass'n of America

Headquarters, 208 Union Building  
1836 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio

## OFFICERS

Henry Wormsbacher.....President  
Wm. P. Hilton.....Treasurer  
Carl A. Duevel.....Secretary  
Maximilian Veith.....1st Vice Pres.  
Dr. T. A. Lehmann.....2nd Vice Pres.  
Albert K. Fahrner.....Musical Director  
Wm. F. Wagner.....Librarian

## TRUSTEES

G. A. Tenbusch	Paul F. Kreuger
Henry Wormsbacher	Wm. P. Hilton
A. K. Fahrner	Mrs. M. R. Krader
A. W. Schepp	J. C. Scherer
Emil Geist	Dr. T. A. Lehmann
Hugo Ranzow	H. C. Grohe

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John C. Scherer, Chairman  
Emil Geist Carl A. Duevel

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Duevel, secretary, and Mr. J. C. Scherer is the musical director. The club has many competent members. Such an organization will give us the most satisfactory assurance for the necessary advance work of our congress. I take pleasure in sending my personal greetings to all members of the Verband, asking every one to prepare for our next festival, to be able to participate in our great Ensembles. Kindly bear in mind, the 1922 Congress is going to be a grand and happy gathering in every respect. Our program will be a good one indeed; we shall select some extra fine musical compositions for this occasion. Let us all join in good harmony to do our share, as we want to show the American music lover what can be done on our beloved instrument. We can only expect good results both musically and financially, if we all participate and try to the best of our ability to do our share. I can promise you all that no one shall ever regret having been present and taking an active part. We want to renew old acquaintance and make a lot of new ones among the American zitherplayers. Having decided on such a splendid location for our 1922 meeting, it is the duty of every one of our members to give their cheerful assistance to make it a grand, pleasing success.

To our dear members and friends my personal greetings and best wishes for the New Year. Hoping that you will start it with a lot of real pep for our next congress, in "Gut Klaug," I am as ever, your faithful friend and musical director.

A. K. FAHRNER.

## WHAT IS THE ZITHER?

By Emil Geist

President Twin City Zither Club

The zither is the musical instrument "par excellence" for the concert hall, for parlor music and for self amusement, with and without the help of other instruments. There are many musical instruments contrived by the genius of mankind; to mention all would be impossible here, but only a few of all of them are capable

of giving full harmonies. Such is the organ, the piano, the harp, the zither; as the three former are so universally known, but the latter so little known in America, it behooves the Twin City Zither Club to make all possible propaganda for so worthy an object. The Twin Cities are Minneapolis-St. Paul, and a number of zitherplayers from both cities have combined to further the art of zitherplaying among the people of America, and of musical instruction in general, by practicing in club meetings, by giving concerts and by encouraging state and national conventions.

Thus, the latest achievement is the securing of the National Convention of the "United Zither Players of America," which was held in various other cities before. The last was in Buffalo, N. Y., and Minneapolis, Minn., may be proud to have as guests the devotees of the "Zither," who are intelligent, painstaking ladies and gentlemen.

We who play the zither want more appreciation on the part of the public for the reason that this instrument is difficult and capable of stirring the soul to its very depths, which is manifested at all occasions where the zither is heard, and no other musical instrument can imitate its sweet and charming sound. To master it one must learn to handle two different systems of strings, it is a dual instrument, unlike all others, therefore it is a difficult one, but since there is nothing to replace it, it has held its place in many parts of the world where it has ardent devotees.

The difficulty of mastering it is offset by many advantages; the principal one, it allows modulations into all the keys, like the piano and the harp, and is so much smaller and more transportable, and is not so loud and may be played in a room without disturbing the other residents of the house.

What the flowers are to the kingdom of vegetation, the arts, sculpture, painting, architecture, music and others are to the realm of man; they are the divine spark, the sacred flame which the ancients kept forever burning on their altars, which, when extinguished, cast a gloom on the world, the death of culture and civilization, as when the sun stops giving heat and light.

Therefore forget for part of your time the pursuit of world affairs and devote part of your wealth to patronize the arts in whichever form they present themselves.

The Twin City Zither Club and the Zither Players of America, think they have a right to appeal to you, and invite you to their forthcoming convention and to the concerts. The time and place will be announced later.

## MR. GROHE RESIGNS AS SECRETARY

Mr. H. C. Grohe, secretary of the United Zither Players of America, has resigned his position owing to poor health. He has been, and according to recent reports is still, at the Woodmen's Sanatorium, Woodman, Colo. We understand that he is steadily improving. Mr. Grohe, as everyone who is acquainted with him knows, is one of our most congenial members and we hope that he will shortly regain his health and be able to resume his duties as president of the Schwarzer Zither Co., and we are in hopes that he will be with us again this fall. Mr. Carl Duevel, who is the secretary of the Twin City Zither Club, has been appointed as the new national secretary. Mr. Duevel is a live young fellow, and it is safe to say that he will make a good man for that position. His address is: Mr. Carl Duevel, 911 Plymouth Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.

## NEWS ITEMS

Mr. Emil Geist of St. Paul, Minn., who is one of the trustees of the United Zither Players of America, and also president of the Twin City Zither Club, is on his way to Europe with Mrs. Geist. They left here January 10th, and expect to be with us again about June 1st. They will visit Wuerzburg, Mr. Geist's hometown, also Stuttgart, the home of Mr. Geist's cousin, who is an opera singer at the Landes Theater; also Rosenheim, near Munich, where Mrs. Geist has a brother living. Mr. Geist has promised to write us of his travels abroad, which, no doubt, will be of interest to all zitherplayers, as he expects to visit a number of zither artists. We hope to give you more news of Mr. Geist in our next issue.

Mr. Wm. P. Hilton, as treasurer of the U. Z. P. of A., made his annual report to the trustees. We congratulate Mr. Hilton on the complete and thorough manner in which the report was made.

### CLEVELAND ZITHER CLUB

The Cleveland Zither Club, under the direction of Henry Wormsbacher, is rehearsing for its coming concert at Swiss Hall on February 19th. Mr. Josef Haustein, the greatest living zither composer, has written a fantasia entitled, "Des Frühlingsmorgen Duft und Pracht," and has dedicated the same to the Cleveland Zither Club. This work will be played for the first time at the coming concert.

Since the club has fitted up its own large meeting room, its membership is increasing all the time.

May the concert prove a big success.

### TWIN CITY ZITHER CLUB

The Twin City Zither Club was organized by the writer in the fall of 1920—shortly after the Buffalo, N. Y., Congress. Two concerts were given last spring—one in St. Paul and the other in Minneapolis. Both were a success considered either from an artistic or a financial viewpoint (the latter in spite of a very heavy rain-storm).

The club rehearses every Friday evening at 8 P. M. at the writer's offices, 423 5th St. So. It would be difficult to find a place more suited for the purpose.

Plans are under way to give two concerts this spring but the proceeds from these concerts will be donated for the benefit of the children of Central Europe. After that all our activities will center on preparations for the congress to be held in October. Our club is well organized and working in entire harmony, which, of course, is essential in the success of any organization.

### NEW ZITHER COMPOSITIONS

For a long time there has been a demand for easier club pieces by organizations that are not far enough advanced to play the difficult pieces of our great composers, so Mr. Henry Wormsbacher has gone to work and written about ten new compositions, which are about ready for distribution.

These pieces will answer the purpose and can be mastered by any zitherplayer; besides, they are catchy and well harmonized.

The arrangement is for I and II zither, alto zither I and II, violin and guitar.

Special notice will be served as soon as they arrive from the printer.

About two years ago the U. Z. P. of A. offered prizes for the best three compositions arranged for ensemble. As a result we have the following compositions, viz:

1st Prize—"Des Frühlingsmorgen Duft und Pracht," by Jos. Haustein.

2nd Prize—"Gruss übers Meer," by Hans Thauer.

3rd Prize—"Ein Märchen," by Anton Smetak.

These may be had from Mr. Henry Wormsbacher, 1357 St. Charles Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

### A SUGGESTION

Now that you know a long time ahead that there will be a convention next fall get ready for it. There are several things to think about.

The first is, get out your zither and practice—and don't neglect brushing up on the bass clef. Second, plan your vacation time if you can so that you will be able to attend the convention, which will be held probably the second or third week in October. Third, figure out the expense of attending the convention and start saving now. Put away something every week—then you will be sure to attend when the time comes. It will be time and money well spent. The National Dairy Show will meet here about that time but the exact date has not been fixed as yet. We want to set the date of our convention to meet during the National Dairy Show week so that all players who plan to attend the Zither Congress may obtain a reduction in fare, which will probably be fare and one half at that time for round trip.

It may be of interest to know how zitherplayers are distributed over the U. S. The following table is made up from our mailing list, viz:

Alabama . . . . .	3	Mexico . . . . .	4
Alaska . . . . .	3	Michigan . . . . .	41
Arizona . . . . .	5	Minnesota . . . . .	75
Arkansas . . . . .	4	Mississippi . . . . .	4
California . . . . .	20	Missouri . . . . .	101
Canada . . . . .	16	Montana . . . . .	32
Central America . . . . .	1	Nebraska . . . . .	45
Colorado . . . . .	18	New Hampshire . . . . .	1
Connecticut . . . . .	21	New Jersey . . . . .	29
Cuba . . . . .	4	New Mexico . . . . .	3
North Dakota . . . . .	3	New York . . . . .	98
South Dakota . . . . .	10	North Carolina . . . . .	2
District of Col . . . . .	2	Ohio . . . . .	85
Florida . . . . .	12	Oklahoma . . . . .	2
Georgia . . . . .	3	Oregon . . . . .	25
Hawaii . . . . .	1	Pennsylvania . . . . .	70
Idaho . . . . .	2	Rhode Island . . . . .	1
Illinois . . . . .	121	Tennessee . . . . .	4
Indiana . . . . .	43	Texas . . . . .	50
Iowa . . . . .	42	Utah . . . . .	10
Kansas . . . . .	29	Virginia . . . . .	2
Kentucky . . . . .	12	West Virginia . . . . .	2
Louisiana . . . . .	8	Washington . . . . .	23
Maine . . . . .	1	Wisconsin . . . . .	75
Maryland . . . . .	14	Wyoming . . . . .	3
Massachusetts . . . . .	26		

It would be evidence of your interest if you sent in names to make this list grow.