



AMICA International Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors' Association Honor Roll

Allan Bier

From the Oct-1970 AMICA Bulletin:

Allan Bier Welcomed Wm. Knorp

Allan Bier, distinguished San Francisco pianist, teacher, composer, Ampico artist and AMICA member, is known to AMICA members through his excellent performances on Ampico. One of his rolls, the Ernest Bloch *In The Night: A Love Poem*, is an example of superb playing and is a wonderful and rare recording. Another roll contains two compositions by the pianist himself entitled *Alastor* and *Summer Dusk*. This is a very rare recording and is also beautifully played.

Mr. Bier is a native San Franciscan and he revealed an unusual talent early, later traveling to Berlin where he studied two years with Josef Lhevinne. He later studied two more years with Harold Bauer in Switzerland and later with Vladimir De Pachmann in Paris. Mr. Bier made his debut in Paris in 1913 and later gave piano recitals in California and Hawaii. He also served as Music Critic of the San Francisco Bulletin and was Director of Music at Oahu College in Honolulu in 1919 and 1920. He taught at Dominican College in San Rafael and created and supervised the piano department of the Federal Music Project in San Francisco during 1935 and 1936. He is well known as a teacher and for many years has taught all ages of piano students, and has appeared as soloist with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Alfred Hertz. The critics have written splendid reviews, and here are a few quotes:



I have not the slightest hesitation in calling him a great artist...
He belongs with the few by legitimate right of his originality and
genius. --S. F. Call-Bulletin

...He is one of our finest pianists. --S. F. Examiner

He has the real poetic afflatus. His playing is individualistic and
delightful, delicately and firmly modeled, instinct with poesy, free
from excessive emotion. --Musical Courier

He is a pianist moulded in that compound of flesh and fire we call
poesy, a musician who gives us from his meditations new readings of
the masters suffused with his personal idealism. --S. F. Chronicle

We hope that Mr. and Mrs. Bier will be our guests at forthcoming
AMICA meetings and we are honored to have this great artist as an
Honorary Member. It is interesting to note that Mr. Bier recorded
his Ampico rolls in San Francisco on an Ampico recording piano in
the Chickering Studios of Lee S. Roberts, Inc., 230 Post Street, where
the Chickering and Chickering Ampico pianos were sold during the
1920's.

