

## ETHEL BARNES

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Ethel Barnes was born in London in December 1874. At the age of 13, she entered the Royal Academy of Music. This was in January 1887.

Her violin tutor was Emile Sauret and she studied piano with Frederick Westlake and for composition and harmony had the over-fussy Ebenezer Prout.

Sauret was French and lived from 1852 to 1920 and studied with Charles de Bériot). Sauret married the pianist Teresa Carreno (1853-1917) and he played sonatas with Liszt.

Prout was English and was born in 1835. He is best known for his theoretical books on harmony, counterpoint, fugue and the orchestra which are somewhat stuffy. But he composed four symphonies, two organ concertos, two piano quartets and a piano quintet, two string quartets and much vocal music. He died in 1909.

In Barnes's time a female violinist was considered 'not the thing' and it is true that serious music was regarded as a male bastion.

In 1892, she became a sort of sub-professor at RAM. In 1896, she made her debut as a violinist at Crystal Palace

Later she toured England and the USA. She won many prizes for her violin playing.

She married to the baritone Charles Phillips in 1899 and they established the Barnes-Phillips chamber concerts.

She wrote four sonatas for violin and piano. The Sonata no 1 in D minor appeared in 1900. The Violin Sonata no 2 in A dates from 1904 and was published by Schott. An illness hindered her career briefly but she emerged from that with her Sonata no 3 and the Sonata no 4 in G minor Op 24 was her last work in this genre.

She completed a Piano Trio in F minor in 1904 and, at a Promenade Concert in 1907, her Concertstuck for violin and orchestra Op 19 was performed. From that date until about 1928 she wrote almost forty pieces for violin and piano.

It is said that her violin sonatas are technically demanding but her music is conservative. Some have likened her music to Grieg

She became a 'full' professor at RAM and died in Maidenhead on 31 December 1948. She was 74.



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