

MARIE HLOUNOVA

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Having written about Lisa Marketta and the London Czech Piano Trio, it is only fitting that I should write a few words about Marie Hlounova as she was a founding member of this trio. She was a leading Czech violinist and teacher.

She was born in Sudelov near Kutna Hora on 3 May 1912, and, from 1926-1933 studied at the Prague Conservatoire. She was, at first, a pupil of Jan Marak (1870-1932) who wrote violin music and a violin concerto, and, then, at the violin master school of Jaroslav Kocian (1853-1950). She quickly rose to become an exceptional violinist and the public admired her tremendously; she had many international engagements in such places as Russia (1937) and Yugoslavia (1938). She came to Britain in 1939 where she stayed for the duration of the war, often appearing with great success with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and other orchestras. She broadcast from the BBC and played at the wartime National Gallery Concerts. She also played contemporary works and premiered Martinu's Violin Sonata no 3, composed in 1944. As already stated, she was a founder member of the London Czech Trio with Walter Susskind (piano) and Karl Horic (cello). They also played at the National Gallery concerts and at the BBC. After the war, her place was taken by Maria Lidka.

During the war, she married a Mr Barnet, of which I have no further information.

The London Czech Trio then had Lisa Marketta as the pianist who was a pupil of Solomon. She married the cellist Karel Horic, but she died comparatively young and her widower could not manage without her and took his own life.

Marie returned to Czechoslovakia and continued her successful career as a soloist and teacher at the Academy in Prague. Her most famous pupil was Josef Suk. She often played with the Czech Philharmonic and toured England, Poland, Finland, Russia and the USA. Everywhere she went, she was acclaimed and, yet, today in 2007, she is almost forgotten. Composers wrote works for her including the Czech composers, Jaroslav Doubrava (1909-1960) and Macha (1922- 2006), well known for his operas, as she continued to expand her repertoire.

However, her politics caused her some distress and isolation as she was in favour of the post-war Russian influenced regime. Nonetheless, she was warm and generous to her many pupils.

She maintained her flat in central Prague but lived in Melnik to enjoy her retirement.

She died in Prague on 4 December 2006. She was 94.

But is she forgotten, or likely to be completely forgotten!

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