

M.Sz.G.

Edmund Sigman

Born in Częstochowa in 1888, Sigman attended Lamparski's school and studied the violin with Balsam. In 1905, he began studying at the Leipzig Conservatory. That same year, he and Wanda Najfeld gave a chamber music concert in Częstochowa in which the noted cantor Birenbaum also took part. The receipts from this concert were donated to a workers' bakery.

After one more year of study in [St.] Petersburg, he moved to Warsaw where, for two years, he played with the Philharmonic as a violinist under the direction of Fitelberg and Zdzisław Birenbaum, whilst continuing to perfect himself at Borcewicz's Conservatory and with the renowned violinist, Izydor Lotto. In 1911-12, he served as violin teacher at the music seminary in Połtawa.

Following the outbreak of the First World War, he again gave several concerts with Wanda Najfeld Kopecka in Częstochowa. In 1915, he moved to America with his father and brother. At first, he settled in Chicago, where he organised a cooperative symphonic orchestra. In 1926, he moved to Philadelphia, gave lessons at the local music school, always appeared as a soloist on the radio and also organized a chamber orchestra with which he appeared at the "Labour Institute".

In 1930, he travelled to Paris and also appeared as a guest director of the Warsaw Philharmonic on the radio and with the Łódź Philharmonic. In 1934, he directed a Chopin concert in Karlsbad. Later, he appeared in a series of concerts in Leningrad, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. In 1938, he returned to America and settled in New York, where he appeared as a guest conductor of the Federal Symphonic Orchestra.