

# KONTSKI (PIANO VIRTUOSO)—

The unexceptional clearness and correctness of his execution and the exquisite moderation of his style rendered his performances in this city unique.

"Opera House,  
Wellington.

"DEAR MR. BROOKES,—

"Kindly let me say how pleased I was on renewing my acquaintance with Erard's famous Pianos through the instrument you supplied me with on the occasion of my recitals at the Opera House. Its tone, its perfect elasticity of the keyboard, and its powerful sound, make it a superb instrument for all artists. I could not anticipate finding such a fine Piano in New Zealand before coming to your city.

"Believe me,

"Very truly yours,

"CHEVALIER DE KONTSKI."

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THE

DRESDEN PIANO CO.,

WELLINGTON.

M. J. BROOKES,

Manager.

De Kotski was not averse to using his name in 'testimonials'. Advertisement from the Evening Post of 23 October 1896.

In the same issue of the *New Zealand Times* as described the third concert there appeared a critical commentary on the preceding events: 'The Wellington Orchestral Society, Some Particulars of a Serious Quarrel'.

The attempt to prejudice the Chevalier failed as it deserved, and everyone regrets that the musical people of Wellington should have been disturbed through outside influence. It must be patent to Mr Hill that De Kotski is a great musician and worthy of the fame which preceded him, and that the letter sent here from outside reflecting upon the venerable artist was—to say the least—in the worse possible taste.<sup>26</sup>

The 'Personal Items' column of that same issue noted Alfred Hill's resignation from the Wellington Orchestral Society.

## OPERA HOUSE.

TO-NIGHT! TO-NIGHT!

A GRAND  
VALEDICTORY Oration of HOMAGE

WILL BE TENDERED TO  
THE CHEVALIER DE KONTSKI  
THIS EVENING,

When the Venerable Musician, decrepid with age, but fired with a youthful enthusiasm and the inspiration of genius, will appear before the musical public of this City for the LAST TIME.

His Worship the Mayor will, at the conclusion of the Symphony written by the aged composer specially for the Orchestral Society, present to the Chevalier Floral Tributes from the musicians of this City and his admirers.

Résumé of Programme—

The Chevalier will play—Weber's Concert-stück (by request), (De Kotski) Souvenir à Macbeth, (Chopin) Scherzo in B Flat, (Beethoven) Andante from Fifth Symphony

Orchestral Society will play—(Schubert's) "Rosamunde," (Weber's) "Concert-stück," (De Kotski's) "The Fay of the Mountain"

Songs (Blumenthal and Meyerbeer)—Madame Cariton

Songs (Barnard and Hobson)—Mr. H. S. Reunert

Solos (Mendelssohn and Alard)—Mr. Macduff Boyd.

Accompanist, Miss Ritchey.

Doors open at 7.15, concert at 8 o'clock.

It is particularly requested that seats be occupied before 8.

Dress Circle, 4s; Orchestral Stalls, 3s; Stalls, 2s; Family Circle, 2s; Pit 1s.

The advertisement for de Kotski's farewell concert reflects the furore with which he had been received by the public.