

JOSEPH EMONTS

ASSISTANT SOLO 'CELLO

The beautiful Santo Serafin 'cello which Joseph Emonts plays was given to him by his father and a friend of the Emonts family in 1914, when young Joseph won the gold medal presented by King Albert of the Belgians in a national contest for "virtuosity."

Even at that early date, prize-winning was no novelty to him. At the Royal Conservatory of Liege, he had studied the 'cello under Alfred Massau, Jean Gerardy and Jacques Gailliard; solfege with Jules Debeve; counterpoint and harmony with Carl Smulders; fugue and composition with Joseph Jongen, and chamber music with Jules Robert—and had been awarded first honors in all of these subjects.

The World War interrupted his career, but in 1918 he went to Brussels as a member of the Queen's Trio and as first 'cellist of the orchestra of the Theatre de la Monnaie. Later, he went to Algiers, where he was first 'cellist of the opera, and where he met Camille Saint-Saens. The young 'cellist and the old composer-pianist appeared together in recital many times. The eighty-six year old Saint-Saens died during a rehearsal for one of these appearances, with only Emonts and a secretary present. Following a concert-tour of Europe in 1924-25, he came to the United States and was engaged as solo 'cellist of the New York Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Emonts was born at Liege, December 6, 1895, the son of a well-known architect. His parents had intended him to be a physician, but his musical gifts became apparent when he was very young, and he entered the Liege Conservatory at the age of ten.

