

Music Gold Medal

Georges Monier BEL
*1892

The Belgian composer Georges MONIER was born in Anderlecht. His victory in the Music competition in Antwerp was his first public success and made his reputation. Later he was the spokesman for a group of avant-garde composers of his country. He joined the group in Brussels in 1922. Then he roamed about Europe visiting France, Italy, Austria, England, Switzerland and Germany, finally staying in Paris for a number of years. He contributed "Polynéaire" for Paul GILSON'S "Traité d'harmonie".

Among his works there is also an opera buff a "La femme fatale", a "Te Deum". But of there is little information on the winning cantata to be found in the Belgian *Dictionnaire des Musiciens* (1947). Under the heading "For solists, choir and orchestra" it reads "Two Motets; "Te Deum"; "VIIIe Olympique de Pindare; Jeux olympiques, soli, recitants, 3 choirs et 3 orchestres."

Judging from the lavish orchestration it must have been a composition of huge proportions. It can be assumed that the three choirs had to be positioned in different parts of the arena; in addition to that soloists, choirs and speakers reciting presenting Odes by PINDAR. This must have been exactly the kind of music, COUBERTIN had been thinking of to give a sporting event the necessary artistic impact.

It would be fascinating to rescue this Olympic cantata from oblivion. But up to now all attempts to find a trace of this composition have failed. According to the Belgian *Sportimonium* it is lost without trace. (BK)