

Fred Geib

Biography

Biography

Fred Geib (1871-1950)

Background Information

Fred Geib was one of the most accomplished tuba players of the first half of the 20th century. His career and artistic contributions included that of tubist, author, composer, and pedagogue. Mr. Geib was born in Germany in 1871 and came to the United States in 1888. His father taught him to play the tuba as a youngster in Europe. Geib studied string bass and tuba with August Helleberg, Sr. shortly after his family immigrated to the United States.

Tubist

Fred Geib's first major orchestra position was with the Philadelphia Orchestra during the 1904-1905 season, under conductor Fritz Scheel. He was Principal Tuba in the New York Philharmonic Orchestra from 1910 through 1928.

Geib performed under some of the great orchestra conductors of the early 20th century, including Willem Mengelberg, Josef Stransky, Gustav Mahler, Arturo Toscanini, Fritz Reiner, Richard Strauss, and Jean Sibelius. Mr. Geib was perhaps best known as tubist with the Radio City Music Hall Orchestra from 1932 through 1947. During the same time period, he also performed in a number of professional bands—including John Philip Sousa, Arthur Pryor, and Edwin Franko Goldman. Geib designed a number of tuba mouthpieces marketed by Gratz and the C.G. Conn Company.

Author

Geib authored one of the early method books for tuba. The Geib Method for Tuba was published by Carl Fischer Music, Inc. in 1941. Along with William Bell's Foundation to Tuba and Sousaphone Playing (also published by Carl Fischer), Geib's was one of the most significant methods for tuba during the first half of the 20th century.

Composer

In addition to the method book, Geib published 10 tuba solos dated between 1939 and 1946. These solos are unique in that they throw off the clumsy, awkward, and

humorous image—typical of many tuba solos written during that era. He also composed a number of etudes simply titled “Exercise.”

Pedagogue

Fred Geib taught tuba at the Juilliard School of Music, in New York City . His tenure at Juilliard began sometime during the 1930s and continued up until the time of his death in 1950.

Biography by Dr. Steve Shoop, Ennis , Texas .

From:
International Tuba Euphonium Association
Honorary Life Members