

Gottschalk

(from Baker's biographical dictionary of musicians, 6th edition 1970)

Theodore Baker

Gottschalk, Louis (Moreau),

celebrated American pianist and composer; b. New Orleans, May 8, 1829; d. Rio de Janeiro, Dec. 18, 1869. He studied in Paris from 1841-46 (piano under Halle" and Stamaty; harmony under Maleden) ; began composing at 16. He made a successful tour through France, Switzerland, and Spain in 1852; returned to the U. S. in 1853 for a grand tour throughout the country, playing his own piano works and conducting his orchestral works at huge festivals; his popularity was phenomenal. The impresario Max Strakosch, who later introduced Patti, engaged Gottschalk for an even more extended tour throughout the U. S. Gottschalk died of yellow fever in Rio de Janeiro during his travels. His works, mostly with Spanish characteristics, include: 2 operas, Charles X and Isaura de Salerno (never performed) ; 2 symph. poems, La Nuit des Tropiques and Montevideo; Grand Marche solemne for orch. (dedicated to the Emperor of Brazil) ; Escenas campestres cubanas for orch.; about 90 piano pieces, and about 12 songs. His Notes of a Pianist were translated from the French (Philadelphia, 1881). cf. O. Hensel, Life and Letters of L. M. Gottschalk (Boston, 1870; unreliable as to facts); L. R. Fors, Gottschalk (Havana, 1880); J. T. Howard, L. M. Gottschalk in the 'Mus. Quarterly* (Jan., 1932); G. F. Lange, Vida y Muerte de Gottschalk, in the 'Revista de Estudios Musicales' (Mendoza, Argentina, Aug., 1950; Dec., 1950; April, 1951; Aug., 1951).