

MR. L. GASTON GOTTSCHALK (*excerpt*)

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Among the Chicago musicians, there are few more genuine and interesting personalities than that of Mr. L. Gaston Gottschalk, the celebrated operatic singer and teacher. Mr. Gottschalk was the youngest child in the family of which the celebrated pianist L. Moreau Gottschalk, was the oldest son. When the young pianist began to give unmistakable evidence of his powers, his parents sent him to Paris, to be educated, but the absence of the favorite son weighed upon his mother greatly and accordingly in a comparatively short time, the family removed from New Orleans to Paris, the subject of our sketch being at that time, an infant in arms. Hence, Mr. Gottschalk grew up in Paris in a musical circle in which, very naturally, his brother was the bright particular star. Later on he developed a voice and received a musical education in Paris, among his teachers being Ronconi and Rizzo. The following particulars of his artistic career were published some years ago: "His aptitude was remarkable, and he soon entered upon a successful series of concerts through America to California. He then went to Italy and placed himself for ten months under Francesco Lamperti, making his debut in Cremona at the Theatre Della Concordia, meeting such immediate and unqualified success that he made twenty-two appearances in "Lucrezia," singing afterwards in "Trovatore" and "I Due Foscari." He subsequently engaged at Alexandria and Genoa and from the latter place entered upon five years engagement with Max Strakosch, during which time he sang with Gerster, Cary, Kellogg, Rose, Tietjen, Belocca, Singer and Campanini. Later he was with Minnie Hank traveling through the United States, and with Kellogg and Brignoli during their American tour. Going to London, he was engaged by Ernest Gye for Covent Garden, and both there and afterward in St. Petersburg, where he appeared with Pauline Lucca, was successful in the operas "Trovatore.," "Carmen" and Traviata." In Paris he earned great distinction, being accompanied at soirees musicales by Saint-Saens (*end of the extract – photograph below*)



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