

DE KONTSKI HONORED

TESTIMONIAL TO THE VETERAN COMPOSER.

The Great Pianist Has Consented to Perform at a Benefit Concert.

In response to a popular demand, Chevalier A. de Kontski, court pianist to the Emperor of Germany, will perform at a testimonial benefit to be given him on Thursday evening, February 21st, at the Auditorium. This will be pleasing news to the host of admirers of the eminent musician and composer in this city.

The subject of a testimonial concert was broached some time ago by a number of musically inclined citizens. They alluded to and appreciated the fact that the Chevalier was about to reach his seventy-ninth birthday, and that he had been prominently before the public as a composer and a pianist of renown for fully seventy years. A high regard was expressed for the incomparable talents of the musician, together with the hope that De Kontski would accept a testimonial. The request was signed by the following well-known gentlemen:

Adolph Sutro, Mayor of San Francisco, Joseph D. Redding, Dr. L. Pawlicki, Henry Heyman, G. Chismore, M. D., H. R. Haweis, John F. Merrill, Colonel J. D. Fry, A. B. Spreckels, T. H. Jewett, Frank Sullivan, Judge E. W. McKinstry, James D. Phelan, George B. Hayes, Captain C. Bielawski, J. G. Murphy, Thomas J. Bergin, Captain G. Niebaum, Louis Bloss, Horace Platt, J. A. Donohoe Jr., Dr. R. Beverly Cole, Dr. W. F. McNutt, S. W. Holladay, E. B. Holladay, G. W. McNear Jr.

The veteran composer replied in the following note:

Gentlemen: The favor you have bestowed on me, requesting that I should accept a testimonial benefit from the hands of the good citizens of San Francisco, has been duly received. I am much touched at the cordiality of the expressions therein contained, and it is with a sense of pride and deep gratitude that I accept your kindly offer. With your permission I will name the evening of February 21, 1895, and the Auditorium, as the time and place for the occasion suggested by you. It also affords me great pleasure to thank the distinguished director, Fritz Scheel, for his gracious promise to lead his orchestra, which is engaged for the occasion.

I assure you, honored citizens, that when this eventful evening shall arrive, if my hands follow the dictates of my heart, I shall play for you with the enthusiasm which gratitude alone can inspire. Ever faithfully yours,

CHEVALIER A. DE KONTSKI,
Court Pianist to Emperor of Germany.

With Herr Scheel and his superb orchestra in attendance and the Chevalier performing in his best vein, the public should enjoy a rare musical treat on the occasion in question.