

Gottschalk

From

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Louis MOREAU GOTTSCHALK, the first American pianist, who became known all over the country by his concert tours, was born in New Orleans in 1829. He was of Creole blood.

In 1841 he went to Paris, studied with Charles Halle and with Chopin, became a pianist of very high rank, made concert tours on the continent and returned to America in 1853. The rest of his life was spent in concert tours in North and South America. He died in Rio Janeiro in 1869.

He had marked originality as player and composer, but his compositions are not likely to be permanent. They are facile, fluent, and characteristic, but the feeling in them is shallow, often artificial and exaggerated, and may properly be characterized as sentimentality rather than sentiment.

His programmes were largely made up of them to the exclusion of better things, but he was among the first to give the American public ideas of fine touch, delicacy, power and consummate ease and mastery in performance as well as of expression, within his somewhat narrow range, and so he contributed much toward laying the foundations of musical appreciation' and cultivation in this country.

John Comfort Fillmore