

Biographical Sketch of Madame Anna Bishop

Madame Anna Bishop Schultz (nee Riviere) the world renowned English cantatrice, extraordinary linguist and traveller, was born in London. Belonging to a family of affluence, she received an excellent musical education while quite young, and long before it was suspected that she was possessed of a voice of rare quality, or that she was destined to achieve celebrity in the profession of music. As her education advanced, it became evident that she possessed more than ordinary capacity, and by the advice of her friends she was entered in the Royal Academy of Music where she received a careful course of instruction, and became remarkable skilful as a pianoforte player.In the meantime her voice became developed; it was found to be a pure and expressive soprano Sfogato, exhibiting an unusual degree of flexibility and power. She made a successful debut as a singer, and thence forward devoted herself to that profession. At first she appeared as prima donna at the Ancient and Philharmonic Concerts, and at the great musical festivals given in the cathedral towns of Gloucester, Worcester, York and Hereford. In this early part of her career Madame Anna Bishop chiefly sang the classical music of Handel, Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven, having paid little or not attention to the modern Italian school of music; and it was not until after she first achieved a distinguished position as a concert singer that, by the advice of a celebrated musician, she seriously devoted herself to its study.The critics of the day spoke in the most flattering terms of the talent of Anna Bishop, discussing at length and with unqualified eulogy both her vocal and dramatic qualification.

.....In October 1839 Madame Anna Bishop gave ten concerts at the Theatre Royal, Copenhagen, and nine soirees in the Palace where she was staying, and which subsequently became the residence of the Hereditary Prince of Denmark. Her concerts in Copenhagen were honored by the frequent presence of the King, the Queen, and all the Court; in addition to this she had the honor of singing in private before the Queen. She sang in English, Italian, French, and German, and concluded her concert by a ballade in the Danish language which won the applause of her Majesty, who presented her with a superb diamond brooch, in testimony of her admiration and esteem.

In January, 1840 Madame Anna Bishop left Copenhagen for Stockholm, and carrying with her letters of recommendation from the Danish Court, soon acquired position and popularity in the latter country.

Madame Bishop continued her tour and reached St. Petersburg in May 1840. She stayed in the Russian capital upwards of a year.She frequently sang before the Imperial Court and on the occasion of the great fete of the Emperor Nicholas, on the 6th of December, 1840 she received from that illustrious monarch a gift of a splendid set of diamonds.

Between September 1839 and May 1843 during which period Madame Bishop gave no less than 260 concerts.

She visited Italy in the summer of 1843.....On some occasions being called before the curtain as often as twenty-five times in the course of the opera. She later returned to London.

She sailed for America in 1847 and made a tour through the United States. She sailed from California for Australia in 1855 and arrived at Sydney in the month of December of that year. Later left for South America and remained there for a season. She arrived in England on 4 Sept. 1858 and stayed one year.

On the 17th of August 1859 she gave her farewell concert at the Surrey Music Hall and immediately afterwards sailed for America, arriving in New York in September. Later made a tour of the Southern States, including Texas, St. Louis, Mo. in June 1860..

During the last four or five years sojourn in the United States, Madame Anna Bishop has sung in the Academy of Music and Niblo's Garden, New York; Academy of Music, Brooklyn; Academy of Music, Philadelphia; and in the Boston Theatre, in English and Italian Operas. She also gave concerts in every city and town of note on the American Continent.

Visited Mexico in 1864 but because of the disturbed condition of the country, sailed for Havana. Madame Bishop set sail from New York for California on the 1st of September 1864, with a view of making a tour of the world; appeared in concerts in San Francisco, and then set out on a tour of the interior, extending her trip across the Sierra Nevada, as far as Virginia City and Carson, meeting with the most flattering receptions wherever she appeared.

At the inauguration of steam communications between San Francisco and the Sandwich Islands, Madame Bishop decided upon visiting those beautiful Isles of Ocean. She sailed on the 18th of February 1866 from Honolulu for Hongkong. On the evening of March 4 the ship struck on a coral island known as Wake Island. The passengers and crew remained on board in the greatest peril until the morning, when a landing was effected. The island was found barren, uninhabited, and without water. After 21 days stay on the island, they departed with 22 souls in a boat 22 feet long for one of the Mariana Islands a distance of 1440 miles which they accomplished in 13 days. On arriving at Guam the whole of the shipwrecked party was kindly taken care of by the Governor of the Island and during the three months they were compelled to remain, were treated by the few foreign inhabitants and natives with the greatest kindness.

From Guam, Madame Bishop and party, consisting of Mr. Schultz (her husband) Mr. Charles Lascelles, Musical Director; Miss Phelan and a portion of the crew of the Libelle, sailed for Manila. After a passage of 21 days, they arrived with only sufficient clothing for immediate use. Madame Bishop had lost her entire wardrobe, jewellery, and a large stock of music, which last, being much of it manuscript, could not be replaced.

Went on tour of China, India, Spent nearly 14 months in India on tour.

Toured Australia, New Zealand, and returned to England via Egypt, etc. In May 1873 a farewell concert was given in Steinway Hall, New York, and then she left for another tour around the world. This time taking the overland route across the continent of America via the great Pacific Railway to San Francisco. Concerts given along way in principal cities and towns. An arrangement was effected by Madame Bishop to give her concerts in the theatre belonging to the church, as it was entirely under the management of the elders and officers of the church. After the termination of the concerts at the theatre (Salt Lake City) Madame Bishop asked the privilege of giving a musical jubilee, as it was called, in the great tabernacle, on the occasion of the anniversary of the American Independence, July 4th. After some consideration by the president, Brigham Young, the privilege was gracefully granted--a privilege much appreciated by Madame Bishop, as the temple had never been given or used by any other person for a like purpose. It was a grand sight, a place capable of seating 11 or 12,000 people, with one of the best organs on the continent; which by the way, was built by a man of the name of Ridges, who came from Australia and built it under great difficulties, as all the materials had to be transported over a great uninhabited country by Indians only. The festival was a great success, musically and financially. It was the opinion of Madame Bishop that the Temple was the most perfect building for sound she had ever sang in.

During her stay on the Pacific coast she visited Oregon and British Columbia for the first time, meeting with great success from the hospitable people of that new and delightful country.

She remained in California nearly 1½ years and then left in Oct. 1874 for Sydney and the South Seas. She gave her final concert in South Africa on Nov. 21, 1876. And then returned to England.

"It is believed by the writer of this sketch that Madame Anna Bishop Schultz is the greatest female traveller now living, if not the greatest that has ever lived, not excepting the late Ida Pfeiffer. It is conceded that Madame Bishop has had the good fortune to sing before a greater number of people, during her professional career, than any other artiste living.

London, December 6, 1877.

Martin Schultz, born May 1, 1815 at Rock City, N.Y.
died...

said to be buried in N.Y. City. He married Lady Anna Bishop (nee Reviere). she was born in Londong Jan. 9, 1810, dau. of a singing master. She died in N.Y. March 18, 1884, and the family say she is buried in Red Hook. She married 1. Sir Henry Rowley Bishop in 1837 (Henry R. Bishop) born Nov. 18, 1786; died April 30, 1855. She has a son by this man, Augustus H. B. Bishop, born 1838; died April 29, 1872 and he is buried in R.H. Lutheran Cem Red Hook. She married 2. her harpist, Robert Boscha in 1859, but when he died is not known. She toured Australia, India, and N.& S. America. She met Martin Schultz in New York and married him. Sir Henry Rowley Bishop wrote the music to which was set the lyrics of Paynes' Home Sweet Home.

Martin was the son of David & Lucy Griffin Schultz. Ben. Schultz, m. Julia Stanton, was a brother of Martin. Also John Griffin Schultz, built R.C.L. Church was another brother. One of 4 children of Benj. & Juliea was Delizabeth who married Roland E. Barringer and lived in Milwaukee, had one child.

David Schultz was the son of Jacob & Ursula Schryver. Both buried Dutch Ref. of Rhinebeck

inf. from Christian Otto Schultz, 1712-1784 and his American
Ance Descendants, compiled by Enid Dickinson Collins.
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