

[Removed from Opera and Its Stars, by Mabel Wagner 1915]

Johann Sebastian Bach

Johann Felix Mendelssohn - Bartholdy

A. Born - 1809 (Feb 3rd) at Hamburg

1. Father - Abraham a banker, descendant of Moses Mendelssohn
2. Mother Leah Saloman, brilliant scholar.
3. Two sisters, Fanny & Rebecca and one younger brother Paul.
4. Fanny - Page 10

B. Training - In 1816 The family journeyed to Paris. Felix & Fanny study piano under Mme. Bigot

1. After returning to Berlin Felix begins piano study with Zelter a former stone mason.
2. Felix, age nine, makes public debut as pianist at Berlin. Page 19 Also painted very well.
3. Joins the Sing Akademie for vocal practice under Zelter.
4. Though family very wealthy the children were brought up very strictly and their father dominated them all to the end of his life.
 - (1) They had to rise very early -
 - (2) Only on Sunday could they sleep until 7!
 - (3) This was very hard on Felix for he never seemed to get enough sleep.
 - (4) Happy home life.

(5) Musicals given first on alternate Sundays, then every Sunday in M.'s home. The tiny conductor perched high on a stool.

(6) Many of his own compositions, quartettes & symphonies first tried at these concerts. The admiring comments that invariably followed their rendition did little to spoil him.

(7) Invitations to these musicals were eagerly sought by cultured families of Berlin.

(8) Conversion Page 26

C. Visit with Zelter to Weimar to see Goethe

1824 - 15th birthday - Page 48

D. At seventeen writes the overture to *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

1. Shakespeare had just been translated into German at that time, and Felix had been reading the plays aloud to his friends & guests in the Faerie Garden. Lessons with Zelter stopped.

E. Grand Tour - To new Weine, Chopin, Schumann, Rossini & others.

F. Page 285 - Queen Victoria